

20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

SOUVENIR EDITION

OF THE

OSSIAN NEWS



*J. Leonard*

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01890 7664

GC  
977.202  
OS7OA

*Nelson K Todd,*

*Shuffton,*

*Indiana*

*January 1, 1900*

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, appearing as a series of connected loops and strokes.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or a short phrase, appearing as a series of connected loops and strokes.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or a short phrase, appearing as a series of connected loops and strokes.



20th Century....



of the



Illustrated.

# Ossian News..



Ossian,  
Ind...



January 1st,  
1900...

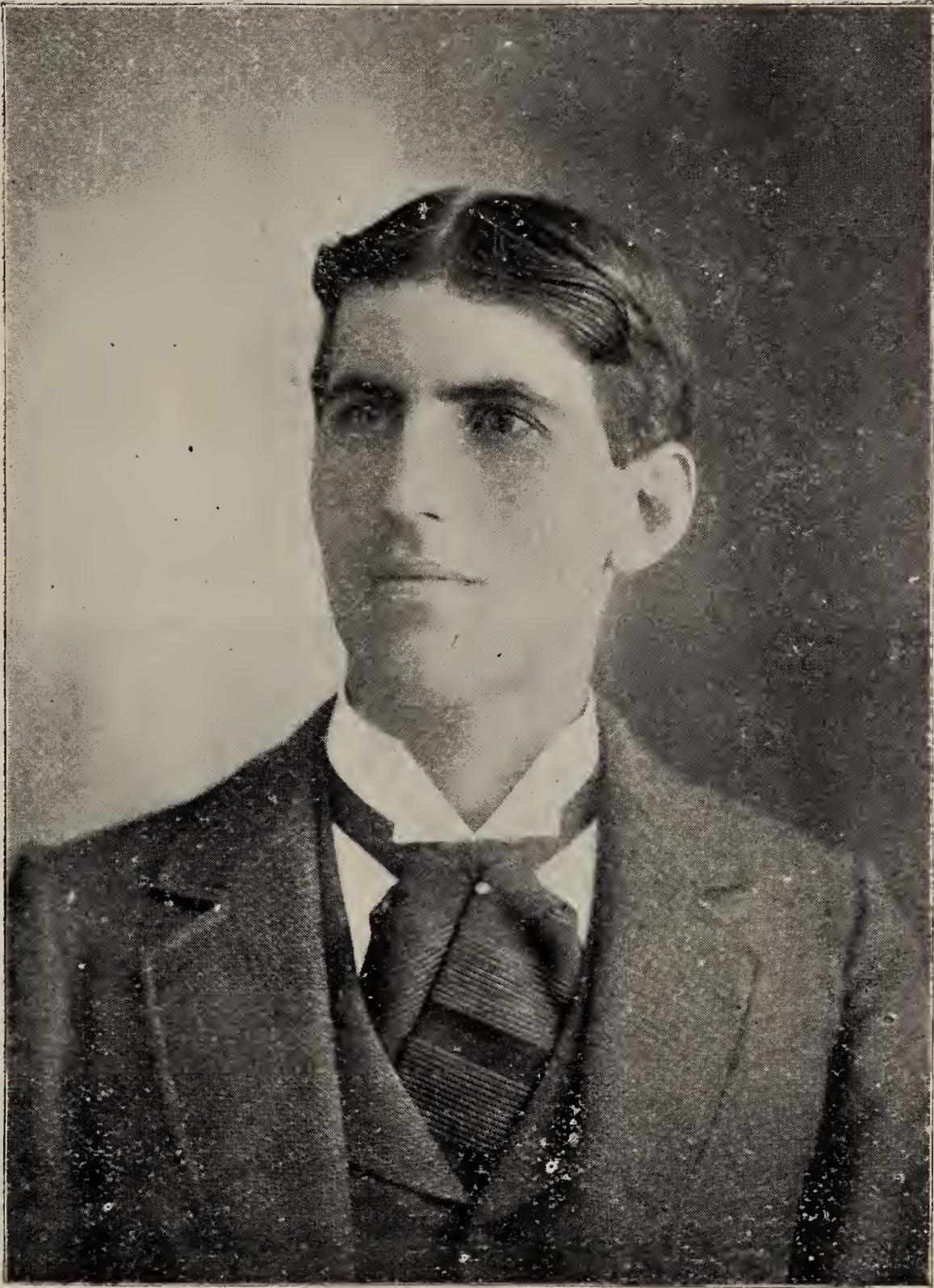


Jas. H. Keefer,  
Editor...









*Jas. H. Keefer*







## Introduction...



Standing on the threshold of a new century, any publication cannot be deemed otherwise than worthy of production, providing it is voicing progress, and is itself an organ of true progression. Ossian is full of vigor—is worthy of a broader attention than ever before: first, because she enters the new era hopefully active, building upon the experiences of a bravely-fought past; and, second, because she has much more of everything calculated to entitle her to the good will of those interested in developement, whether of town or city, than formerly. Therefore believing that there is a demand for an historical and biographical work, which, by sketching somewhat of the past, proves the existence of a bright presence, and the approach of a brighter future, the Publisher of THE NEWS offers to friends and patrons, the most superb Souvenir Edition ever gotten off a country press. That the effort, at this, the beginning of a new epoch, will meet appreciation, and that any inaccuracies in data will be overlooked, the Publisher cannot doubt.







## Facing the Future.



BY REM A. JOHNSTON.



So shall we sit in jubilation of power,  
Advancement for our footstool, and the name  
Of hoped achievements whistling through our thoughts.  
Behind us lie the countless æons that  
Were marked by ceaseless, solemn effort and  
Great unnamed acts and rare attainments wrought.  
Upon the past we build with serene hope,  
Watching the new dawn of a wonder world—  
A newer century far greater than  
The many cycles of the fateful past!







## Ossian.



WHEN Oliver Goldsmith penned the lines which have made his fame lasting and endeared his memory to every home-loving heart, he did not describe "Auburn" because of any starry grandeur, because of any great natural scenery, or wealthy endowment she possessed. He wrote of "Auburn" because of the inherent worth she was mistress of; and in our brief history, which we seek to present in the most readable and interesting form possible, we have for our excuse no higher aim, no better purpose than to command attention for the sake of the true worth of our little city, which worth elevates her over larger and noisier contemporaries. Let no one, then, for a moment suppose that we have the beauties of a Riverside Drive, Cornice Road, Euclid Avenue or Champs Elysees to describe. Beauty is only an aesthetic pleasure after all, and there are other elements of greatness besides those which appeal merely to taste, which elements it is the duty of the present chronicler to present.

Ossian is the banner town of Wells County. Situated ten miles north of the County Seat, our city affords the northern portion of the county with an ideal trading-point. Again, being situated centrally in an exceedingly fertile district, she is the emporium of the wealth of the rich lands surrounding her—a truly ideal market for whatsoever is grown in the country round about.

Not alone is Ossian to be considered in her purely commercial aspects. She is a seat of intellectuality and mental advancement, and might in all justice be termed the Athens of the County, whence go out year by year the pride of state and country.

The early history of Ossian is similar to that of most of our pioneer towns. Early happenings are shrouded in oblivion, or remembered only in such a vague way as to make the occurrences seem purely traditional.

Dates for the most part are almost as





*View of Mill Street.*

difficult to obtain as are credible stories of the past ideals and achievements of the place. Still, looking back to the not exceedingly far-past year, 1837, we find that the present site of the city was a wilderness of woods, inhabited by all the natural denizens of a primeval forest. The wide sluggish, malarial-laden Eight-Mile flowed along to its destination—Little River—through swamps haunted by deer, bear, and the ghosts of red warriors who twenty years before had hunted, trapped and slain their kind along its misty margins. This rank, scummy overflow—at places one-half mile wide, at others impassable—reminding one of nothing so much as the fabled infernal river (which rolls to its destination through Erebus blackness and filthy fogs of death,) nourished the germs of ague and all the deadly fevers. Roundabout, the silent woods, dense and damp, distorted and disfigured by gnarled, swampy undergrowth, shrouded the pleasant land which was, years later, to develop into a most choice farming district.

Imagine if you can this scene. A heavy growth of woods, covering a dank swamp-land, full of wild animals, poisonous airs, and one might almost say, dews of death! A sickly, misty place where all the long nights throughout the rainy season the perpetual drip of moisture soaking through all things permeable, hung in great dewy beads on every conceivable thing! A chilly,

inclement country, where during the bleak winters the icy wind howled and hissed the livelong while, singing wild *sonatas pathétique* and wilder *misereries* in the oaks and ashes of the virgin forest! A dangerous land, full of snakes, and crawling creatures, unclean reptiles, wild things that love such black, isolated fastnesses; fearsome, grewsome abode of terrors, that required men of great hearts and powerful, splendid, Ilyssus-like forms to enter and conquer—to enter and

alter to meet the demands of an encroaching generation.

Into this wild of forest, water, swamp and ague, came Robert and William Craig in 1837, the first Jefferson Township pioneers. William shortly returning to the old home brought back, in 1838, his family. Then came other adventurous spirits, who reasoned that, despite of all the obstacles that confronted them, the land was good, and would eventually furnish homes and farms for themselves and children.

In 1838 came John Davis, John Snider, James Ferguson, Levi Young, and from that time on the township filled up rapidly. In general, the class of people who thus camped in the wilderness, were men and women of the upper middle rank, which rank has furnished the world with all its greatest men from times immemorial. Here was pluck, here was labor, here was industry, here was morality, here was unquestionable integrity. The lack in wealth was little felt as the earnestness of the toil developed new vistas through the long vaulted aisles of which showed glittering goals (attainments to be reached by ceaseless efforts of brawn and brain).

It were too long a task to set down the names of the worthy and great men who contributed their lives toward the early development of the country around Ossian. In the forties the Gorrells, Glasses, Adys, Quackenbushes, Allens, Hatfields made





JACOB FATSCHER,  
CLERK.



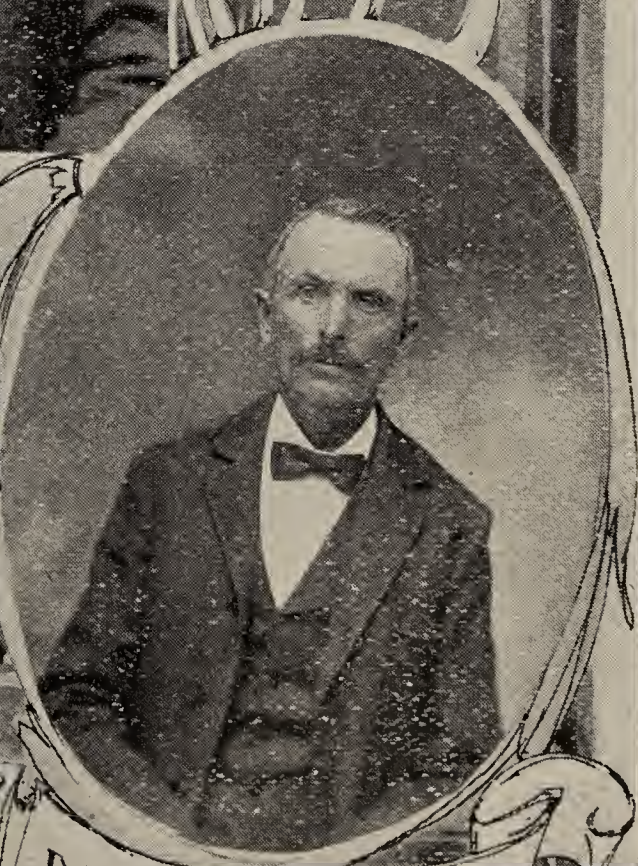
M.N. NEWMAN,  
TRUSTEE



E.H.  
JUSTUS  
MARSHAL



N. WEAVER, TRUSTEE



D.H. McDOWELL, TRUSTEE



their appearance. Murray and thereabouts which had been settled previously (even having had in the year 1834 or 35 a pioneer soul named Swett) drew such good old families as the Mettses who were, years later, to form such a necessary adjunct to the Ossian commonwealth.

Slowly, after the manner of all stable world-growths, the elements which gave body to the first effervescent efforts of colonization, gave also logical form to more permanent and necessitous enterprises. The land was quickly taken so far as swamps and water permitted, then came the necessity for trading-posts. Murray because of its earlier settlement became one as did Bluffton. As yet the Jefferson Township pioneers toiled principally to Fort Wayne for supplies. In the early forties when there was but one man—Levi Young—living on the present site of the city, John H. Glass moved into a small cabin near Young's and began the not arduous task of keeping store. This was a favorable sign in the history of development. Trade began to come, of course, and the people to huddle into groups as it were, instinctively drawing nearer to each other. In the year 1846, William Craig, John Ogden and Squire LeFever laid out the town of Ossian and made an auction for the sale of lots. This was a well-directed act. The people followed the lead. The growth, which began in the usual fitful manner, steadied, after the fashion of early organizations which always play shadow-like at first, and in a few years Ossian became a powerful rival to Murray, which was then struggling for supremacy over Bluffton, a struggle which the capital of Studabaker determined in favor of the present County seat. Not immediately did Murray deteriorate: for many years without gaining, she held her early prestige. Ossian on the contrary, continued to wax larger and stronger.

The great "Plank Road" was begun in 1850. By this time the people gathered in Ossian rapidly. The county was well settled. The steady unremitting toil of the woodsmen had made an impression upon

the forests. The game began imperceptibly to travel westward and northward. This was a sign of civilization's progress. Frame buildings began gradually, and gradually it was indeed, to take the place of the log houses with their puncheon floors.

Another sign of the forward trend of affairs was the survey of the railroad in 1854, which, however, was fifteen long years in proving anything more than an unrealized dream. In point of fact the rails were not laid until 1869, when our esteemed fellow townsman David Craig had the honor of driving the third spike used on the ties in this county.

When the war broke out there were probably two-hundred inhabitants and several small business places in Ossian backed by a sustaining vitality which enabled the village to safely stem the furious blasts and drains of war.

One by one, the business buildings were enlarged; little by little the town grew in power. The intelligence of the people who managed the early affairs conspired to add to this vitality and strength born of good blood and great need.

It is not necessary to describe the advent

#### *View of Main Street.*







***Group of Old Settlers.***

of each industry. In its proper place each will receive its historical setting and a description of its material growth. Here we recognize principally the general effect upon progress, and the steps in general advancement.

Schools added their humanizing influence. The sinew and brawn of outdoor effort furnished clear, vigorous brains. The youth began to show signs of ability worthy the sons of such a hardy race. Convention was as it should be, bounded by one or two clearly defined rules—a convention new, separate, of itself a law for clean souls and stout hearts. And morality was never so great a realization as during this period of first-growth, and integrity was never so high.

The seventies were years of steady advancement, both intellectually and materially. The village increasing each year assumed a well-to-do aspect, changed in form somewhat, enlarged its compass. It became as it still is, the great trading point of northern Wells County.

The eighties were years of unmixed gain. The number of inhabitants of Ossian swelled to seven hundred. The Nimmons

stave factory, employed a hundred men and more. The trading and commercial interests increased, checked only by a few years of depression in the nineties, which depression has now happily passed away forever.

To-day Ossian is one of the cleanest little towns imaginable. Being incorporated she is in admirable condition to successfully control the gains she has made in the past. The schools each year, increasing in usefulness, offer advantages unequalled by many of the commissioned High Schools of larger cities.

The stores are now doing the largest volume of business ever known in the history of the place. Two large general stores, three restaurants, two drug stores, livery stable, harness shop, tile factory, brick yard, wagon shops, furniture store, two hotels, one shoe-store, one barber-shop, one hardware store, one tailor shop, two blacksmith shops, one saw-mill, one grain elevator, one creamery, one undertaking establishment, the largest flour-mill in the county, the banner job printing office of the county, a tasty, readable weekly, are all doing an extra amount of work in their





***Oldest Dwelling in Ossian.***

the county, a tasty, readable weekly, are all doing an extra amount of work in their several lines. The streets are nicely graveled the walks substantially made. Shade trees adorn the highways which stretch out north and south and west through the most fertile lands known—the lands which realize the dreams of the pioneer toilers of half a century ago.

Cosy residences front the streets. An air of great, perpetual peace and prosperity rests over all things. The hurly-burly of sweat shops is unknown in this rare Utopian retreat. Situated on the banks of the once loathsome Eight-Mile Creek there is no longer anything to fear from poor drainage—the system is unequalled by any of our contemporaries. The most ardent religionists would scarcely have any fault to find with our moral status. Presbyterian, Methodist, United Brethren and Baptist churches afford ample evidence of the devotional culture of the people. Also the successful war against the liquor element has preserved for us an environment free from all temptation.

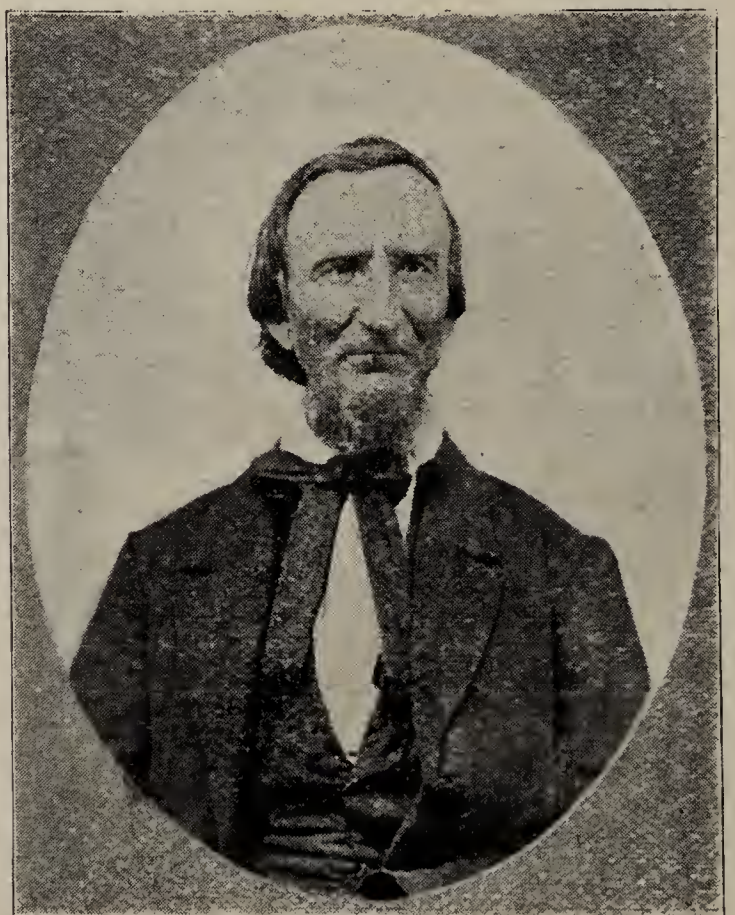
To those who find fraternal organizations a necessary adjunct to life, the seven secret orders of Ossian, to say nothing of the numerous other social societies would prove acceptable.

The musical culture of the city is represented by the trained choirs of the several churches, performers on various instruments, and a brass band. In every respect is this place of advancement up and above the average town of its size.

The population of Ossian numbers about 1,000 souls. This number is slowly increasing as is evinced by the occasional appear-

ance of new buildings. In every respect the situation seems to be improving even beyond the hopes of those who prepared the way for us. Poor toilers in damp forests! Poor workers by slimy ague-tainted streams! Poor laborers in the dim dumb past, today your descendants stand in the red blaze of a new century's dawn and look with dazzled eyes into the world-picture that spreads before them. A part of the deeds and attainments will be theirs and they will build as even you, with strong fearless hearts and sinewy hands. The future of Ossian bright as it will of necessity be, will depend upon their efforts. Like you they will build and pass away and be remembered only for the marks their hands have left on the material things and on the intellectual status round about. The past has been a successful one. The future no man can see. Year by year the sun-shadows will dance on the dark grave-stones of those who have helped to make our history. Hopeless toilers? No. A stable, growing town, the birth place of many great, the death place of many good, the living place (and most successfully so) of numerous men and women of activity and resource, is not a miserable result.

Ossian has more to offer in the way of advantages moral, intellectual and commercial than any near contemporary. Wrapped in her veil of sunshine and peace she is content to be nothing great if she may be good and prosperous. The pioneer efforts have not been vain ones.



***J. R. LeFever.***





J.G. GORRELL,  
J.P.

C.H. BELL,  
P.M.

JAMES  
SWAIM,  
TRUSTEE

J.S. KREWSON, N.P.

A.B. DAVIS, N.P.





*Ossian School Building.*

## Growth of the Schools.



The reign of the brass-edged ferule and knotty beech-rod has ended. The "old deestric" school is dead, but a mightier growth has arisen, built upon the early foundation, where worth and character made up for the lack of mere intellectuality. In the old times, Reading, Writing and 'Rithmetic, or the three "R's," were sufficient branches for the son and daughter of the hardy pioneer to master. A higher education would have been wasted on the men and women who got their knowledge in the school of bitter unpalatable experience. But as the needs developed new activities and the pioneer toiler began to come in touch with the world outside his world, the educational impulses increased, the tendencies to strive toward higher and nobler attainments showed forth, as they always do in the normal building of popular, clannish, tribal or municipal government. In the old days one who could read well in the old "English Reader," write a fair hand, and "cipher" to Compound Proportion was ready in mental furnishment for the battle of life. Today with our graded public school, which ends only with a four years High School course embracing History, Histology, Higher Mathematics, Chemistry, English Literature, Physical Geography, Geology, (branches in the days fifty years syne scarcely known,) there still remains many uninvestigated lines which the future holds for the school which has slowly evolved from a mere embryo of theoretical intellectuality. To-day is the day of the unceasing



squabble for scholarship. Today is the day when the child puts his parents to shame by questions not found in the old curriculum of study. Today is the day of pedagogy, psychology, philosophy—and incidentally, just sometimes only, precocious children. It might be observed parenthetically that there are those who believe that modesty and wisdom should go hand in hand for though we have some knowledge and perception, perhaps, in our school attendants we have a vacuum when it comes to modesty. This, however, is not a result of the better—not to say the higher—education, so we may pass it by, tolerate it, since it is a universal evil which no educational reform will ever touch.

In 1841, by the old law, three trustees for Jefferson Township, were elected. Those men—Levi Young, J. R. LeFever, John Ogden—were the first legal representatives of learning in Ossian. By them the first school in the township, known as the “Craig School,” was organized. Miss Margaret Hatfield was appointed teacher by them, and so far as we have been able to trace, was actually the first teacher in the township. She was followed by Isaac Hatfield, Joseph LeFever, Dr. William Johnston and others, but in what precise order we are unable to state.

The first school held in the town of Ossian was taught by Robert M. Johnston. The building utilized was an old log kitchen situated near the spot where now stands the residence of Walter Craig. This school was organized in 1850. In 1851 the first school house proper was built. It was situated near the place now occupied by Dr. J. I. Metts’ office. A rude log cabin was this structure, small and poorly built. Here in 1851 and 1852 Robert M. Johnston taught both day and night school. Here also in 1852 and 1853 taught Miss Mary Cartwright, who later became the wife of our respected fellow citizen Milo J. Gorrell.

Some time later a frame building was erected. This structure now exists as a shed on the property of B. F. Johnston. Here the early teachers toiled to instil the primal truths in the receptive minds



*Residence of John Rex.*

of the present generation. Here occurred the floggings, trials, and tribulations of the old regime, good descriptions of which we have all read in Edward Eggleston’s “Hoosier School Master.” Poor old efforts of hands forever still! Most of the instructors—the “Masters” have gone away: their reign has long been ended: their methods have been dead these many days.

\* \* \* An accurate list of the teachers of this period is not forthcoming—that they were all competent, judged by the standards of those days, we are assured: that they faithfully performed the trust to which they were appointed there can be no doubt. Of those still remembered as teachers the following are to be mentioned: Jacob J. Todd, Miss Maggie Hawkins, A. B. Cartwright, Mrs. Rena Howard, Mrs. Mary Wilmington.

In the later sixties the frame two story building (which was torn down in 1893 to make place for the large brick addition, erected under Trustee McCullom, condemned in 1898 and replaced under Trustees Ransom Allen and James Swaim by the present grand structure) was built in response to the demand for a larger building and increased facilities. This building



A collage of seven portraits of local residents, arranged in a circular pattern with decorative flourishes and labels. The portraits are as follows:

- J.H. KISER**: A man in a dark suit and white shirt, positioned at the top center in an oval frame.
- W.D. MANNES**: A man in a dark suit and white shirt, positioned on the upper left in a rectangular frame.
- MISS JENNIE SWAIM**: A woman in a light-colored, ruffled dress, positioned on the upper right in a rectangular frame.
- PROF. J.E. MYERS**: A man in a dark suit and white shirt, positioned in the center in an oval frame.
- MISS IDA TAYLOR**: A woman in a dark, patterned dress, positioned on the lower left in an oval frame.
- MISS LIZZIE JOHNSTON**: An older woman in a dark, high-collared dress, positioned on the lower right in an oval frame.
- MISS JENNIE ALLEN**: A woman in a light-colored, patterned dress, positioned at the bottom center in a rectangular frame.

The portraits are surrounded by decorative flourishes, including stylized leaves and scrollwork. The labels for each portrait are placed directly below or to the side of the image.



was of course erected during the trusteeship of Dr. J. I. Metts who went into office in 1859, and who served with honor for 21 years. The first person employed as teacher for this second frame school house was Miss Jennie Sterling. To this estimable instructor belongs the credit of being the first to introduce grade arrangement in our schools. It is a matter of regret that we cannot secure the name of Miss Sterling's assistant.

Probably the real usefulness which we expect to find in school effort dated from the beginning of Miss Sterling's administration. She was a careful, conscientious teacher who strove constantly to elevate the then standard of scholarship.

It will interest many into whose hands this work will fall to read the names of those who followed Miss Sterling. We were unable to secure a list that is at all satisfactory or chronological. And it must be understood that the list given is incomplete, since we were unable to get the records—most of which were destroyed by fire. The names of those who are easily remembered for their labors in the "old two-story frame school-house," as it has come to be spoken of, are

as follows: J. B. Donaldson, Serepta (Metts) Worley, S. N. Vail, Nellie (Rankin) Baker, Wm. Mygrants, R. Houser, Lizzie J. N. Johnston, Joe (Metts) Walmer, Ida (Johnston) Emmanuel, May (Gorrell) Swaim.

Of these persons, who, in the shadowy past, builded perchance better than they knew, several have climbed to positions of eminence, others walk no more among us, having been called away upon the Father's business. Tribute is due to all of them—and memory.

Just here it is well to go back to 1868 in order that we may speak of the academy which Rev. A. Mayn, A. M., in that year, opened in Ossian. It was not

mentioned in foregoing pages of this article, since the institution was purely a private enterprise, and in no way connected with the public school. Still, it seems good that the work of this institution of learning be mentioned, since Rev. Mayn brought more scholarship to Ossian than had any instructor before his day, and perhaps, than any one since.

Being an old college professor his methods were the ones in use by the most learned educators of those days. For three years Rev. Mayn taught in Ossian, and the value of his work is now incalculable. All the teachers of the old regime remember his work to have been of the very highest order. Teaching 35 classes



*Residence of T. A. Doan.*

a day, "hearing recite at one time" 3 classes, were feats performed by this wonderful man. After his departure in 1871 the seeds of mental activity sown, resulted in a growth of young public school teachers who introduced the methods of Rev. Mayn as far as practicable, in the schools over which they presided. The keynote of this epoch of mental industry was thoroughness.

In 1878, the first brick building was erected. A large four roomed structure, built as the necessity for larger accommodations was presented.

P. A. Allen, now editor of the *Bluffton Banner*, was the first principal in the new building. He was succeeded by D.





***Residence of A. B. Davis.***

H. Swaim., present editor of the *Bluffton Chronicle*. These gentlemen continued the work of "grading" and succeeded in giving the present school much of its boasted system. W. H. Ashcraft, J. B. Bonnell, R. W. Stine, J. T. McMannus, E. R. Lerner, I. C. Hamilton have all been connected with the public schools as principals. All were men of eminent ability to control and systematize. It was due to their untiring efforts that we made such advancement as is now accorded us.

The present school building is a large brick, containing eight rooms. The southern portion of the edifice is the oldest part, which was erected in 1878. The northern part or the new addition, which is a fine specimen of architectural skill, was recently completed.

The corps of teachers for this year is here recorded:—

Principal, J. F. Myers; Assistants, W. D. Mannes and J. H. Kiser.

5th Room, Ida Taylor.

3rd Room, Jennie Swaim.

2nd Room, Jennie Allen.

1st Room, Lizzie J. N. Johnston.

These instructors are all teachers of wide experience and ones selected by Trustee James Swaim after a careful weighing of merit. Mr. Kiser is a new teacher who comes to Ossian well recommended. He fills the place of Miss Mar-

gret Stine, who resigned to continue her English studies and finish her collegiate course. The loss of Miss Stine is remarked by our most intellectual patrons, she being an instructor of remarkably bright promise.

The forward steps we are taking seem to indicate that we shall soon have a commissioned High School. At present the course is felt to be equal to that offered by sister High Schools throughout the state.

In reviewing the past and comparing it with the present, it appears that we have made a greater advance in educational lines than in any others. We have always been regarded as an intellectual community: our educational aims have been high: our struggles unceasing. What the future holds for the school seems of especial promise. Certainly no one remembering the toils and trials of those who "upheld the torch" and journeyed through the darkness of this rude, unlearned rusticism of the early "woods-days" in Jefferson Township, can refrain from joyous exultation and comparison as the full force of the permanent advance to ideals formerly undreamed, strikes down in complete realization. We are what we are by the grace of God and the considerable hard work of

***Town Fire Engine.***







*The Ossian Creamery.*

scores of persons, many of whom have passed out of remembrance. The whole economy—the whole structure is one superb piece of coral-building.



## The Music World.



Music is the thermometer of culture, the indicator that measures the aesthetic tendencies of a people, the qualifying pulse of higher taste. Whatever real advancement toward ideal living we have made in the half-century of our existence is to be measured by our musical progress. That it is the social custom to decry the superiority of what is termed “classical music” is not a pleasant thing to set down as a bit of historical record. This barbaric habit of overlooking the beauty and value of real music is gradually becoming an unpopular custom. The day has gone by when musical prophets can stand in our midst and receive no appreciative criticism. This fact shows that the evolution is toward the beautiful and good. Time was when “The Last Hope” by Gottschalk, performed before a representative audience would have been accepted as an unwelcome misery to be undergone for decency’s sake. We fancy that we are considerably above that stage now, and though the meaning in Wagner, Beethoven, Handel and Bach is far above us (and who is it not above,) the tendency is strong to study the work, and delight in the performances of the masters. The day of “noteless” playing has gone by to a great extent. The violinists and the pianists now work upon the concertos of the eminent creative spirits and by so doing show how far above mere backwoods toilers the younger generation has progressed toward the broad, liberal field of art.



### Vocalists.

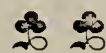
Of those who have had a share in contributing to the musical evolution upward, the vocalists are prominent, because they began in old days when instrumental music (except the “fiddle”) was a thing almost undreamed of “out here in the woods.” The first singers were the itinerant singing school teachers of whom there



is now no record and scant trace. Those were the days of meetings in old school houses to gain from some wandering piper meager instructions, sufficient to enable our fathers to sing the gamut correctly enough to give some right interpretation to hymn tunes and the like. Good times certainly, and good pipers, good psalm liners, good singers all—they have lost their voices now; nothing is left of the forgotten music they gave us but dreams and vagaries of the past! Among those who taught “singing school” the names of these men are still handed down: Sanford Karns, Sam Hill, Joseph Rich, Noah Walker.

Later came a score or more, singers who

song in Ossian there yet remains one name unnoted, reserved for final mention in this division, because worthy of record not cursory. Mrs. Lenore (Allen) Hall, youngest daughter of Sherman Allen, is now in Europe completing her musical studies, and singing before the most critical musical audiences in Germany. Her voice is a beautiful soprano. Those who have heard her sing recall the balmy days of Jennie Lind. Mrs. Hall is an acknowledged success as a vocalist.



### Instrumentalists.

Prominent among those deserving of

mention as being pianists of ability is Miss Gee Milliken. Miss Milliken is a brilliant performer, and a faithful conservative teacher. She has large classes each year! It is with pleasure we recall the impetus given music by each of the following teachers and performers: Misses Anna Mitchell, Lida Allen, Mamie Alleman and Jennie Craig. Though they are no longer members of our society the benefit of their former teaching was incalculable. Special reference at this time is to be given



*Residence of N. Weaver.*

will always be remembered, not for any special celebrity, but because of their struggles to forward vocal music. The names of those who have been connected with singing in Ossian, especially, are as follows: Mrs. Ina (Church) Beatty; Mrs. Capitola Glass; Mrs. Chas. Foughty, better remembered perhaps as Miss Kitty Hanna; Miss Grace Wilson; Miss Effie McCorkle; Messrs. Fred Livengood; V. M. Hatfield; E. H. Roe; Arthur Roe; M. P. Allen; Will Derr. Mention is to be made of Miss Margaret Doan who has been a prominent local vocalist for the last ten years. Her voice is a strong soprano, powerful and worthy of attention.

Of all those who have contributed to

en to the musical endeavors of Miss Susie Craven who was one of the most brilliant performers we have ever had. During her period of usefulness in Ossian she won encomiums of many friends, and since her departure she has received the plaudits of many musical critics.

Her playing is extremely accurate; her interpretation vivid and impassioned. It is a matter of pride that she should have dwelt among us, and labored for a time in a world which could not fully appreciate her real ability.

Miss Ivah Brickley is another musician of local reputation—a reputation growing more established since her success as an educator in music.



With sorrow the writer of this sketch turns to the one name in our musical history that stands out clearly defined, transcendent over all others—sorrow that a young life full of such wonderful promise should have been cut short. William Derr, violinist, greatest of all those who have loved art in Ossian, was born April 1st, 1877, and died August 22nd, 1896. Into his brief life he managed to crowd the inspiration and labor of what for most people would be half a century.

His fame locally is a lasting one. To this day it is a matter of reminiscent comment when some musician has completed a difficult performance—"Oh, that is very well, but you should have heard Will Derr play that selection."

The OSSIAN NEWS, August 28, 1896, contained the following characterization:—

"While yet very young Will Derr became connected with the cornet band and quickly displayed abilities in his part, that indicated an uncommon talent. His promotions were frequent, and he found himself at the age of 16 at the head of this organization with a recognized and durable reputation as a baritone player. His

***Residence of V. M. Hatfield.***



***Residence of L. F. Wilson.***

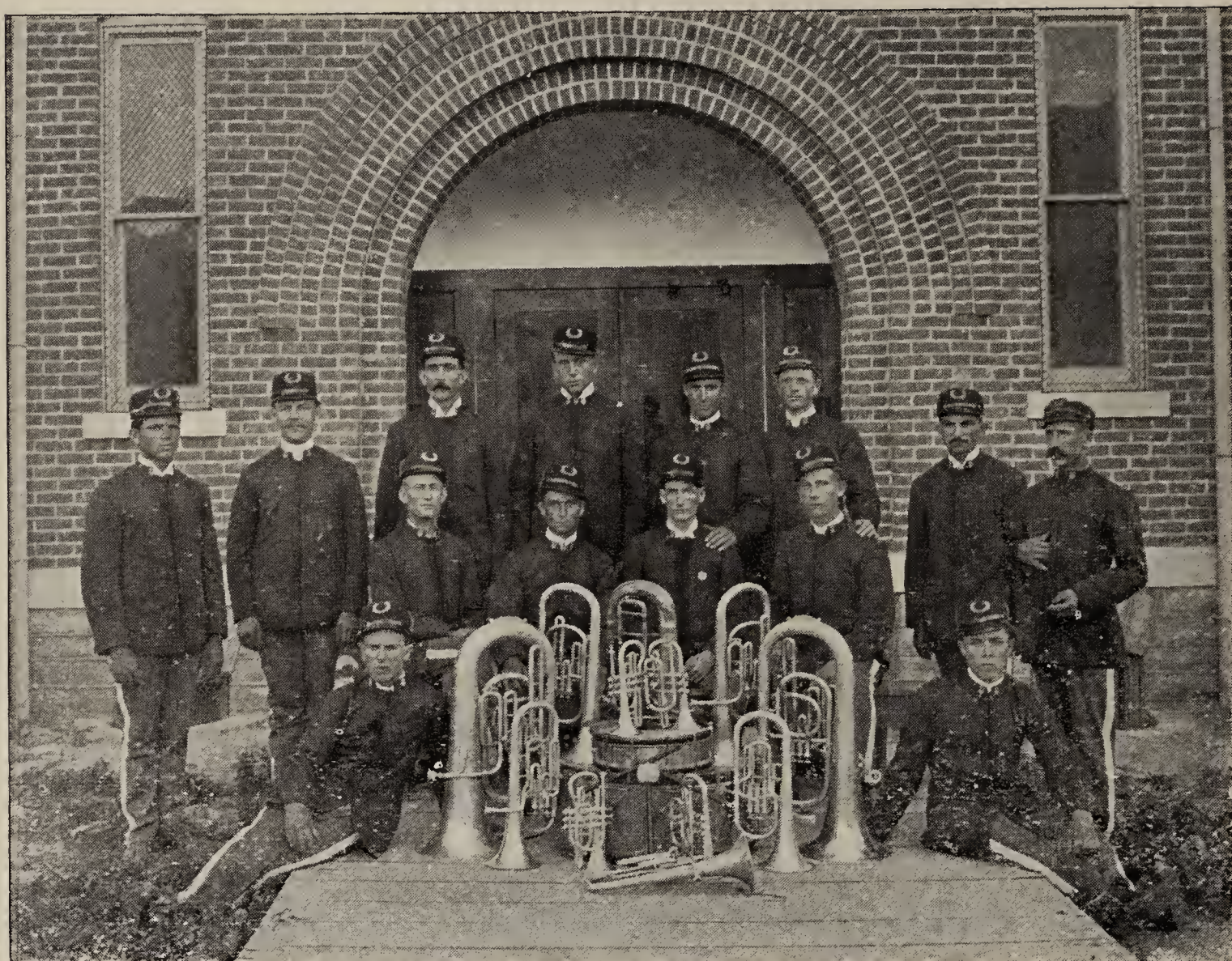
talent was so exceptional in this particular province of the musical world that he was encouraged to take it up more extensively. He soon learned the flute, clarinet and organ; and performed creditably upon them all. But it was not until at length he was persuaded to turn his attention to the violin that his genius appeared in its highest perfection.

"Recognizing in this instrument unlimited scope for his talent, and possibilities hitherto unperceived, he assiduously applied himself to the task of mastering it. The progress he made is well known to many of us, his skill being most remarkable. That he would have attained distinction as a musician there can be no doubt. He had been granted the leadership in singing, and under his supervision the most satisfactory results were reached."

The most intense passion was one of the marked features of this wonderful young man's playing. He interpreted the music of the masters with all the fidelity of a divine inspiration. Each moment of his short brilliant life seemed to elevate him above the sea of mediocre professionalism.

Rem. A. Johnston, the bio-





***Allen's Cadet Band.***

graphical editor of this work, was privileged to be one of the young artist's nearest friends. With loving criticism he wrote to an acquaintance concerning Will's violin playing as follows:—

“You speak about talent—here is talent rising sheer beautiful, and towering over all lesser lights. Will's violin playing is wonderful. He will be a master—nay, he is a master, for the color of Stradivarius, of Sarasate creeps into his tone increasingly each hour, also an original tint which some day will be the foundation of a new color and a new style. His phrasing and shading are exquisite, and though his bowing still leaves something to be desired (critically speaking) pure genius overcomes technique. The intuitive awakening of long dead methods, tones, feelings, causes one to forget the little amateurish frailties and faults which another year's study and practice will entirely overcome \* \* \* He is making such advancement as he not even dreams. Already he has proven how brightly the divine fire is burning. His rendition is surprisingly clear, his notes

crisp, melodious, a combination of everything desirable in sound. As you listen to his playing you dream of magnificent, old world cathedrals, where the air is heavy with symphonious tremblings. You harken and the voice of the violin becomes the voice of a woman soaring and quavering up and up, until the very soul seems to be suspended in the sobbing upper air of the cathedral, and that very soul seems crying and moaning about the lips of the brazen organ pipes. This through a fiery twilight red with ineffable flame \* \* \*

This artist's death was a great calamity to local music. We have never recovered from the loss, greater than which there could have been none. Whether we shall ever again be so vigorous, speaking for the side of execution and interpretation as during Will Derr's life time, is a matter for the younger musicians to settle.



**Allen's Cadet Band.**

The band has been a feature of importance in the musical field. Its organization,





***L. E. & W. R. R. Depot.***

life and work are due to the liberal support of the citizens, and to the labor of Bandmaster—M. P. Allen. This musician, who has the reputation of being one of the foremost street leaders in Indiana, was born in this county in the year 1859. He is a self-taught cornetist of ability and has figured prominently for twenty years in local circles. Beginning the study of the cornet when but 18 years of age he entered the first band organization, then known as "The Gideon Band." Bandmaster

Allen proved to be the backbone of the organization, and through its many vicissitudes has proven its firm supporter, upholder and friend. He enjoys the reputation of having instructed over 500 men connected with the band since its first appearance on our streets. The present organization is growing stronger each year. Having lost recently by fire a large library and many instruments the band has not quite assumed the old position of eminence and superiority. But a short time will place the association on its old footing. The men are now superbly uniformed, and fully prepared to do high class work.

Though brief and hurried this sketch, an effort has been made to show that interest in that most necessary realm of art—music—has increased; and with interest an education in rhythmic forms that places our city far above contemporaries. That time will never come in the records of our municipal life when the glory, the greatness of harmonic ideals, of melody and the life-blood thereof, shall cease to indicate any thing other than upward progression in culture and taste.

***Residence of David Stine.***





## The Churches.



It is a matter of pleasurable report that Ossian has assumed a wide reputation for her ability to diffuse and perpetuate religious sentiment. That the "church element" has ever been one of the most potent factors in the thought development, no one can deny: that such is the case is a matter of thanksgiving and hope, for no community can be truly strong, does it lack the strength of religious organization. It is due to the church that intemperance has been driven away from the town many times, and all open evils put in a way of vanquishment.

The people contribute readily to the support of the churches. The several recognized creeds have each an increasing number of followers. It is a matter of remark that the churches here have drawn more religious gatherings, conventions and the like, to this place, than have the churches of any town of our size anywhere within the radius of our acquaintance.

For many reasons the following brief historical sketches will prove interesting to numbers of church workers here and abroad. The friends formerly connected with christian effort here, will read with pleasure the history of religious purpose in which they once personally figured.



### Methodist Episcopal Church.

It is a pleasure to note the incidents, however fragmentary in detail, that mark the rise and progress of the religious tendencies of Ossian. Among the influences most conducive to broadening the moral status, and increasing the clean

intellectual perception of the people, the Methodist Episcopal church must always be numbered among the foremost. Whatever the efforts of the educators, whatever the zeal of the pioneer, whatever the prowess of those who fearlessly entered the wilderness, the whole was eclipsed by the passion of the early western preachers, and no church was ever possessed of more zealous pastors and class-leaders than our Ossian charge.

The primal records of the Ossian Circuit were lost. Quoting from an early historical sketch of the church, we are enabled to state as succinctly and correctly as may be all that is now known of the first stirrings in our midst of the spirit of Methodism. We subjoin the extract.

"We find the territory that now embraces the Circuit was included in the St. Mary's Mission, being taken into the Mission October 30, 1848, the earliest date of Methodism in this part of the country. The Mission included all the territory south of Fort Wayne and north of the Wabash river, (and was) supposed to embrace a part of Adams, Huntington, and Whitley counties.

### *Presbyterian Parsonage.*





"The Ossian Circuit was organized in September, 1850, with Ossian as its head. The Prospect Society was among the classes that entered into the formation of the Circuit. The boundaries of the Circuit were defined so as to embrace about all St. Mary's Mission outside of Fort Wayne. The boundaries of the circuit have been changed from time to time until the present boundary marks its limits, which is properly the county line between Wells and Allen counties and west-



*Residence of Rev. W. Z. Roberts.*

ward the southern boundary being the Wabash river near Murray, thence east and west, leaving the boundaries about all in the north part of the county. The Ossian Society was organized in 1851, and worshiped in the school house and dwelling houses until 1853, when the first church was completed. \* \* \* Rev. J. W. Foughty was the first class leader. \* \* \*

"The Prospect Society was organized September 30, 1848, with William Cotton, now deceased, as leader. Services were held in the dwelling houses of John A. Lepper and Simon Krewson and in the school house, (which was, it might be mentioned, for two years the extra room of the cabin home of Simon Krewson). A log church was built about 1853, which was the house of worship until 1861 when the present church house was erected. \* \* \*

"The Emmaus Society was organized in 1876, with Robert W. Hall, now deceased, as leader. They worshiped in the school house until the present church edifice was completed. \* \* \* This society was a part of the Sheldon Circuit until 1881 when it was attached to Ossian.

"The Uniondale Society was first organized in 1884 and attached to the Markle Circuit \* \* \* but in 1885 it was attached to the Ossian Circuit. The services were held in the Lutheran church of Uniondale until September 1886 when the society was abandoned. This society was again

organized Jan., 13, 1888, and the services were held in the Lutheran church until Dec., when the present church building was completed. \* \* \*

"The first parsonage house was built in 1852. The second house was erected in 1866. To this there was built a wing in 1877. \* \* \*

"The aggregate average attendance of the four congregations taken together is about five to seven hundred."

Since the above history of the church was written changes in the Circuit have been made until now the Ossian and Prospect churches are the only ones in this charge. The valuation of church property is about \$2,800. Salary paid to pastor \$725; presiding elder \$64; bishop \$11, total \$800 per annum. The benevolent contributions apart from the salaries aggregate over \$300.00

The present pastor Rev. C. M. Hollopeter, a cultured gentleman, will be long remembered since it was during his period of usefulness here that the new and grand brick house of worship was erected (in 1899). This large building with its fine auditorium, basement and social rooms is certainly a credit to the town. The members of the church have a right to be proud of the \$5,500 structure which replaces the old frame house so long in use.

From the above description of the development of the Ossian M. E. Church and





***First M. E. Church.***

its adjuncts it will be seen that Methodism in this place is in a flourishing condition, and that the field is cared for by liberal, careful workers.

The organization is especially rich in active aid societies. The Epworth League, a young peoples auxillary, was organized in 1887, with 23 members, with J. W. D. Metts as president. Now there are 63 members to "hold up the banner," and the society is officered as follows: Pres., Alcena Swaim; 1st Vice Pres., J. F. Myers; 2nd Vice Pres., Margaret Doan; 3rd Vice Pres., E. H. Roe; 4th Vice Pres., Edna Way; Secretary, Dove Osborn; Treasurer, Oliver Buck. In connection with this society, the Junior League should have honorable mention. Organized in 1892 with 15 members under the leadership of Miss Cora Hood there are now 74 young workers. Miss Hood has been superintendent during the whole period of time since organization.

The W. F. M. Society is also a very necessary adjunct to the church life—it is large and full of vigor.

A list of pastors from the earliest dates is interesting to those who have followed

the growth of the church from its infancy. We subjoin in conclusion a chronicle of the names of those devoted men who for a half century and over toiled ceaselessly to purify, elevate and save the hardy strugglers in a new country.

**ST. MARY'S MISSION.**

Revs. T. F. Palmer, 1848: Dennis B. Clary, 1849.

**OSSIAN CHARGE.**

Revs. J. W. Miller, 1850: Almon Greenman, 1851; W. S. Birsh, 1852; James Johnson, 1853; W. T. Smith, 1854; A. Andrews, 1855; A. Douglas, 1856-57; J. M. Mann, 1857; B. F. Armstrong, 1858; S. H. Clark, 1859-60; E. S. McNeal 1861; J. T. Nash, 1862-63; T. Colclazer, 1864; J. H. Slade, 1865; O. D. Watkins, 1866-68; W. E. Curtis 1869-70; L. Roberts, 1871-73; J. H. McMahon, 1874-75; J. M. Woolverton, 1876-77; J. M. Mann, 1878; Y. B. Meridith, 1879; N. Burwell 1880; J. L. Ramsey, 1881-82; E. P. Church, 1883-85; J. A. Lewellen, 1886; Henry Bridge, 1887-90; J. B. Alleman, 1891-92; S. C. Norris 1893-97; C. M. Holloper, 1898-99.





*First Presbyterian Church.*



### Presbyterian Church.

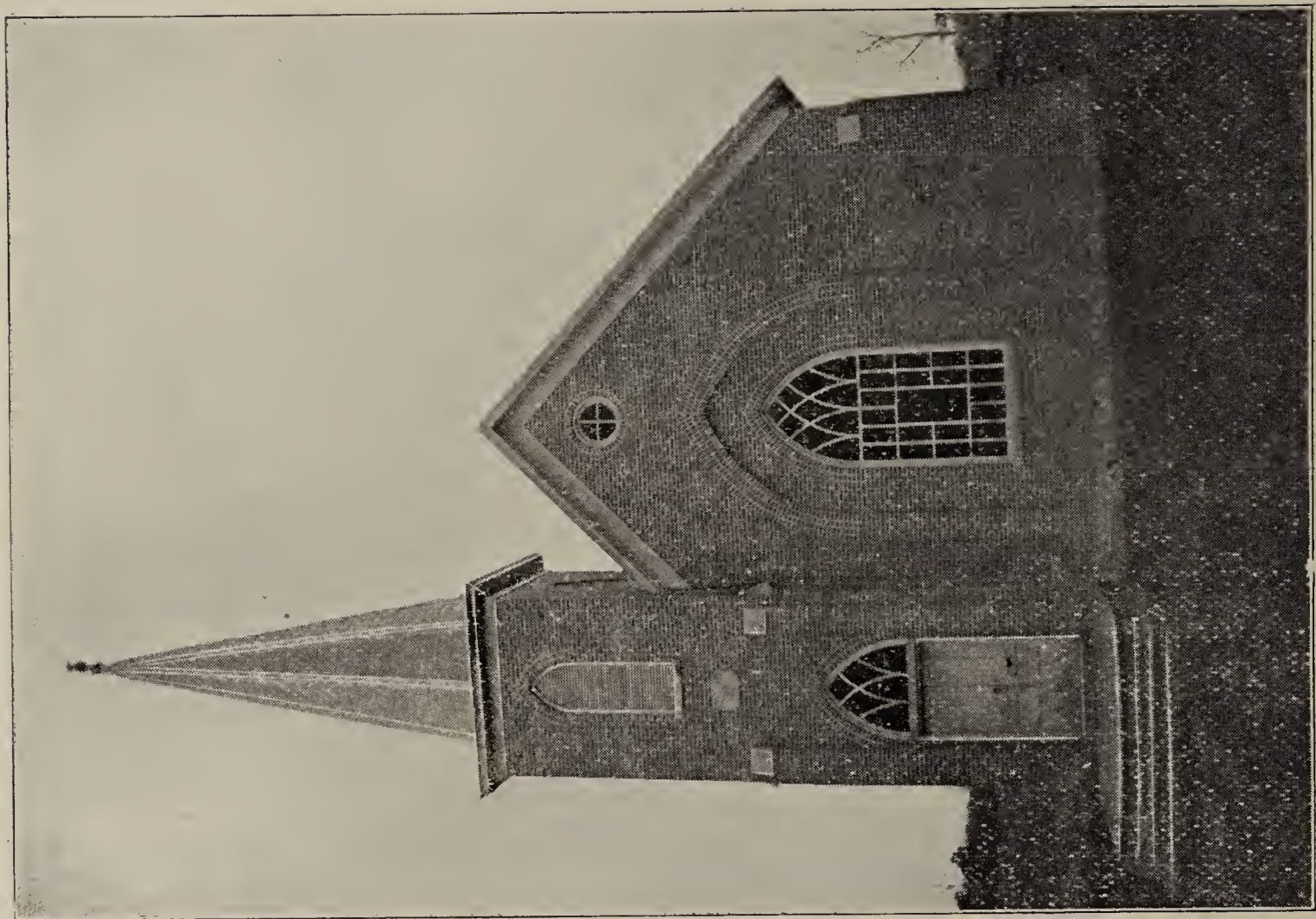
The Ossian Presbyterian church has ever had a wide influence for good, not only upon the immediate vicinity which contributes to its support, but in the larger field of christian influence, both presbyterial and otherwise. From this organization have gone out men, who, as pastors, have been wonderfully successful soul-winners. The names of these men stand plainly inscribed upon the records of the clergy of this church. Their usefulness has been remarked again and again by the leading church assemblies, and the men themselves have risen by reason of their special talents to enviable positions in those bodies. It has always been a matter of great pride to those who are members of the church that they have had such shining lights among them, and that the christian influences of their own beloved pastorate formed environments conducive to guard and lead the children of the church to such worthy eminence.

The church proper, first known as the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian church, was organized June 10th, 1840 at the house of

Adam Hatfield, with a membership of 22 souls, all coming into the holy assembly by letter. The first pastor was Rev. John H. Russ, who was not long with the little flock of earnest workers.

It is a matter of history that after the trial of the few ministers succeeding Mr. Russ, the church was almost upon the verge of a disorganization, as it seemed impossible for the then scattered Presbyteries to furnish ministers for the struggling western churches. Messrs. Joseph Gorrell and Adam Hatfield were instrumental in securing the services of the Rev. Wilson M. Donaldson, the one man who has had more to do with the building up of Presbyterianism in Ossian than any other. Indeed with justice, it may be said the Bluffton field owes greatly for the great good this godly minister accomplished for it in its early days, as Mr. Donaldson labored long and earnestly with the early Bluffton charge, suffering the many privations attendant upon the preaching of the gospel in those days. This was the man whom God sent to care





*United Brethren Church.*

for the early Presbyterian church in Wells County. How well and faithfully he did his work only the Almighty Father knows, and that knowledge He has written down, let us hope, in the Book of Selfsacrificing Service, which shall be the most read volume of all Eternity.

It were a pleasure, did space permit, to write at great length of Mr. Donaldson's ministration in Ossian. Suffice it to say, he was a devout man, a faithful pastor, a builder in the highest sense of the word. Mr. Donaldson was pastor of the Bluffton and Pleasant Ridge (now Ossian) churches twenty eight and one-half years.

In the year 1867, the present frame 40x60 house of worship was built and dedicated in Ossian, and the Pleasant Ridge church was vacated, the congregation coming to the new house, under the leadership of Mr. Donaldson. The name of the church, however, by common consent remained "Pleasant Ridge" and was so known until the spring of 1876, when it was changed to the "Ossian Presbyterian Church."

The number of members received into the church by certificate and examination since organization is 634. The present

membership is 197.

The church has a large Sabbath school, an active, vigorous W. F. M. society, and a Christian Endeavor Society which was organized during the pastoral service of Rev. M. M. Lawson. This society is a flourishing one, is large and capably officered.

The pastors since Mr. Donaldson have been Revs. John Mitchell, M. M. Lawson, Edwin Craven and Edward Campbell. All were men of nobility of character who steadily increased the church efficiency here. Mr. Lawson contributing especially to the success and the building up of the Kingsland and Elhanan churches.

The present minister, Edward Campbell, is a most promising young pastor. Under his care it is to be hoped that the church will increase in strength and usefulness.

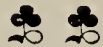
In conclusion a word regarding those of whom we have reason to be proud. Four of our members have become ministers of the gospel: John B. Donaldson, Wilson E. Donaldson, Robert M. Donaldson and Solomon N. Vail. These men have all attained especial distinction in the higher circles of Presbyterianism. This is, we think, a pleasing, splendid record for the





*Baptist Church.*

first Presbyterian church organized in this county.



### **United Brethren Church.**

The United Brethren church is our youngest christian organization. Until the building of the large brick by the M. E. church it boasted the only brick house of worship in Ossian. It was organized under the pastoral labors of Rev. J. P. Stewart in the year 1889. The membership at this time was small, but through the faithful efforts of Revs. Stewart, Holmes, J. W. Lake, W. Z. Roberts, and those of the other pastors itinerant, evangelical and otherwise, the supporters of the faith now number 70 souls.

The beautiful brick structure in which the congregation now worships was erected in 1889 at the cost, including lot, of \$2,800.

The Sabbath School has an enrollment of 100 scholars, The Y. P. C. U. numbers 30 members.

The present pastor is Rev. W. H. Shepherd who though burdened with the labors of the several churches under his care, is

building the church up and making it stronger in every way

The usefulness of this church must not be forgotten or overlooked. They are a quiet faithful set of people who are engaged in this special branch of God's work. It is to be hoped their power will steadily grow until their number of adherents are doubled or trebled—there can never be too large an element of good in a town the size of Ossian.



### **Baptist Church.**

Of those agencies which have contributed to local spirituality the Baptist church must ever be considered hopefully one. It is a matter of regret that though the church was organized as late as March 28, 1882, it was difficult to get many accurate historical points, the memory of the members supplying the written records which were unfortunately lost some time ago.

The first pastor of the congregation organized March 28, 1882 was, Rev. Jasper H. Winans. The membership at that time consisted of 12 earnest souls. Meetings were held in various public places for



several years as the supporters were unable to build at once. In the year 1885, however, the frame building now in use was erected and under the pastoral care of Rev. Walters the house was dedicated, and the church gradually grew in numbers.

A list of ministers who have served the church since its beginning is here given:

Rev. Walter; 1885. Rev. C. S. Winans, 1887. Rev. D. B. Record, 1888. Rev. Lucas Aspy, 1889. Rev. W. J. Kemp, (no date). Rev. C. S. Winans, 1891. Rev.

Hart, 1894. Rev. C. S. Winans, 1899.

The foregoing list is set down from verbal report, memory being forced to serve for written records: if there are any inaccuracies the church will excuse them.

The pastor now guiding the church is Rev. C. S. Winans, whom many remember. Under his care it is to be hoped the membership will increase from the present 48 to a much larger number. Several notable revivals have been held in the Baptist church, all of which have had wonderful influence for good over this community.



## Fraternal Organizations.



Probably no town in Indiana of the size of Ossian boasts of so many orders as our own little city. We have four regular male secret societies and three female like organizations. This speaks well for the social nature of our people. Wherever

one finds society expressing itself in vigorous, well-sustained orders one is constrained to believe that in that place culture and mental prowess exist, because school church and the more exclusive social organizations move hand in hand.

*Residence of Mrs. Wm. Lopshire.*



### F. & A. M.

"Ossian Lodge, No. 297, F. & A. M., met under dispensation, September 30 1863, John P. Nash, Worshipful Master; E. Covert, Senior Warden; B. F. Taylor, Junior Warden. The Master appointed William Beaty, Secretary; J. I. Metts, Treasurer; Joseph Kreigh, Senior Deacon; Thomas Vail, Junior Deacon. Charter members same as mentioned, the charter being dated May 27, 1864: and July 7, following, Amos Townsend, of Bluffton, a special deputy of Grand Master Hacker, organized the lodge by the installment of the following officers: J. P. Nash, Worshipful Master; E. Covert, Senior Warden; B. F. Taylor, Junior Warden; J. I. Metts, Treasurer; C. Sump-ton, Secretary; James Johnston, Senior Deacon; A. H. Metts, Junior Deacon; T. Vail, Tyler.





REV.  
E. CAMPBELL

REV.  
C. M. HOLLOPETER

REV.  
W. Z. ROBERTS

REV. A. S. ELZEY

REV. D. M. LUTTRELL





*Residence of Mrs. Samuel Hood.*

The following have served as Worshipful Master: J. P. Nash, J. I. Metts, C. W. Beardsley, W. B. Miller, James Gorrell, William Stine, James Swaim, Henry O. Stine, J. C. Hatfield, Ed. Stine, J. C. Mason, E. A. Vail.

The present lodge membership is 65. The following gentlemen are at this time in service as officers: W. M. Craig, Worshipful Master; F. M. Beaty, Senior Warden; W. H. Rupright, Treasurer; James Swaim, Secretary; W. D. Mannes, Senior Deacon; W. M. Doan, Junior Deacon; G. W. Valentine, Tyler.



### **The O. E. S.**

The Emerald Chapter No. 166, O. E. S., the sister lodge of the F. & A. M., was petitioned for Dec. 14, 1895, was organized and instituted Jan. 25, 1895, the instituting officer being Jacob J. Todd of Bluffton. The charter membership was 30; the first officers were; Miss Lizzie J. N. Johnston, Worthy Matron; J. C. Hatfield, Worthy Patron; and Mrs. Ona

Mason, Associate Matron; Mrs. Jennie Stine, Secretary; Mrs. Mary Stine, Treasurer; Miss Lucy Vail, Conductress; Mrs. Anna Trevey, Associate Conductress; Miss Nellie Craig, Adah; Mrs. Ella Hatfield, Ruth; Miss Jennie Allen, Esther; Mrs. Lida Metts, Martha; Miss Edna Gorrell, Electa; Mrs. Eliza Seibold, Warder; T. A. Doan, Sentinel; J. W. D. Metts, Chaplain; H. O. Stine, Marshal; Miss Jennie Craig, Organist.

The present membership of the lodge is 64, a gain of 30 over the char-

ter enrollment. The officers now in service are: Mrs. Anna Trevey, Worthy Matron; W. D. Mannes, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Hannah Wilson, Associate Matron; Miss Maggie Stine, Conductress; Miss Jennie Allen, Associate Conductress; Mrs. Maggie Weaver, Warder; Mrs. Anna Gibson, Adah; Miss Grace Derr, Ruth; Miss Grace Wilson, Esther; Mrs. Allie Derr, Martha; Miss Nellie Craig, Electa; Miss Lizzie J. N. Johnston, Secretary; Mrs. Laura Beaty, Treasurer; G. W. Valentine, Sentinel; Mrs. Anna Craig, Chap-

*Residence of A. Hoopengardner.*





lain: Mrs. Lillian Spencer, Marshal; Mrs. Mate Beaty, Organist.



### K. of P.

Since its organization the K. of P. lodge has made great gain. It is one of our best secret societies and its benefits, both social and practical are incalculable. Castle Hall lodge was instituted Feb. 4, 1892, by George W. Grimes of the Bluffton lodge. There were 34 charter members, and the financial condition of the lodge was a success from the beginning,

The first officers of the organization were: W. A. Woodward, Past Chanc. Com.: E. Salesbury, Vice Chanc.: J. S. Burnett, Prelate; Robt. Green, M. of E., Irvin Porter, M. of F.; Ed Davis, K. of R. & S.; J. E. Ormsby, M. A.; Elmer Allen, I. G.; Chas. Niriter, O. G.

The charitable work done by this estimable order has been considerable. The present financial condition is flattering. The membership roll is now 99. Considering everything this lodge is in every way exceedingly valuable not only to its members and their families but to the entire people.

The officers now in service are: J. A. Lechner, C. C.; L. L. Allen, V. C.; A. S. Elzey, Prelate; Chas. Swaim, M. E.; O. W. Reed, M. F.; F. P. Quackenbush, K. of R. & S.; Warren Mahnensmith, M. A.; William Reed, I. G.; Clint Vananda, O. G.



### Rathbone Sisters.

The Garland Temple, No. 118, of Rathbone Sisters, the sister organization of the K. of P. lodge, was instituted Dec. 31, 1894 by District Deputy Grand Chief, Mrs. Mary Lipkey of Bluffton, with 24 members. The Charter was granted June 4, 1895, by Grand Chief Mrs. Josie Nelson, Union City.

The first officers were: Miss Cora Hood, M. E. C.; Miss Martha Taylor, E. S.; Mrs. Serepta Worley, E. J.; Mrs. Bertha Davis, M. T.; Miss Grace Wilson, M. of R. & C.; Mrs. Lillian Spencer, M. of F.; Mrs. Ella Woodward, P. of T.; Mrs. Myrtle Snarr, G. of O. T.; Mrs. Jennie Stine, P. C.

The present number of members is 33 sisters and 11 knights; total 44 members. the loss by death to lodge has been 3; removals 10.

The officers now in the service of the organization are: Mrs. Serepta Worley, P. C.; Miss Martha Taylor M. E. C.; Mrs. Ella Woodward, E. S.; Mrs. Lulu Davis, E. J.; Mrs. Harriet Patterson, M. of T.; Miss Cora Hood, M. of R. & C.; Mrs. Ella



*Residence of N. H. Trenary.*

McDowell, M. of F.; Mrs. Belle Vananda, P. of T.; Mrs. Mira Quackenbush, G. of O. F.



### I. O. O. F.

The I. O. O. F. order was instituted Nov. 12, 1895 by Dist. Deputy Grand Master W. D. Fitch with 12 charter members. The officers elected and appointed at that time were: E. B. Kern, Noble Grand; E. A. Vail, Vice Grand; L. A. Todd, Sec., L. F. Wilson, Treas.; J. F. Tison, R. S. N. G.; John Glock, L. S. N. G.; Joe Vail, I. G.; Hiram Whetstone, O. G.; Jacob Fatcher, Conductor; W. H. Summers, Warden; W. M. Craig, R. S. V. G.; V. K. Grim, L. S.





*Residence of Dr. M. N. Newman.*

V. G.: Theo. Melching, R. S. S.

The number of members at present in good standing is 30. The meeting night is every Tuesday.

The following is the enrollment of officers: Chas. Grim, N. G.: W. M. Craig, V. G.: Jacob Fatscher, Sec.: B. D. Johnston, Treas.: Frank Jackson, R. S. N. G.: Dole Hecker, L. S. N. G.: V. K. Grim, Warden: Henry Fatscher, Conductor: Clark Quackenbush, I. G.: Alonzo Kreigh, O. G.: Fred Hiser, R. S. V. G.: Jonas Ferril, L. S. V. G.: Thos. Melching, R. S. S.: John Glock, L. S. S.



### Rebecca Lodge.

Holding the same relation to the I O. O. F. that the Garland Temple does to the K. of P. is the Pearl Lodge, No. 561, I. O. O. F. The charter was granted this society on application of Mrs. Mary A. Clark, Misses Zora Philips, Mary L. Kyle, Rosa Glock, Blanch Smith, Margaret Melching. Organization was effected Mar. 21, 1898, the Bluffton Paradise Lodge furnishing instituting officers. There were 15 members at the starting, out of which number the following officers were elected: Miss Zora Philips, N. G., Miss Anna Chalfant, V. G.: Miss Nellie Craig, Sec.: Miss Rosa Glock, Treas.: Miss Maggie Melching, Chaplain: Miss Maud Vinecore,

Warden: Miss Jennie Trenary, Conductress: Miss Blanch Smith, R. S. N. G.: Miss Jennie Wilkins, L. S. N. G.: Miss Katharine Craig, R. S. V. G.: Miss Mary Houser, L. S. V. G.: Miss Mary Kyle, I. G.: Miss Mamie Fatscher, O. G.: Miss Katharine Craig, Organist.

The growth of this society has not been rapid as it only numbers about 20 members at this time.

Those active as officers at this time are as follows: Miss Maud Vinecore, N. G.: Miss Mary

Kyle, V. G.: Miss Anna Chalfant, Sec.: Miss Katherine Craig, Treas.: Mrs. Jennie Wilhelm, R. S. N. G.: Miss Maggie Melching, L. S. N. G.: Miss Grace Black, R. S. V. G.: Miss Grace Wilson, L. S. V. G.: Miss Nellie Craig, Warden: Miss Rosie Glock, Conductress: Miss Mamie Fatscher, Chaplain: W. M. Craig, I. G.: Hiram Whetstone, O. G.



### K. O. T. M.

The K. O. T. M. order was instituted with great *eclat*, a band was organized under its auspices, and great things were promised in the way of financial benefits to those who should become members. At the present time the pretensions of the lodge are more modest.

The charter was given Feb 15, 1896, with the following officers enrolled upon it: J. B. Haifley, P. Sir Kt. Com.: J. C. Hatfield, Sir Kt. Com.: E. E. Derr, Sir Kt. Lt. Com.: J. C. Mason, Sir Kt. R. K.: W. M. Craig, Sir Kt. E. K.: G. W. Glass, Sir Kt. Chaplain: G. W. Wagner, Sir Kt. Sergt.: A. G. Gorrell, Sir Kt. Physician: Wesley Crummitt, Sir Kt. Mat. A.: Wm. Short, Sir Kt. 1st M. of G.: Ezra Johnson, Sir Kt. 2nd M. of G.

It is possible that the real value of the lodge exists in the low rate of insurance promised the members in good standing.



### Other Organizations.

The G. A. R. is almost an extinct organization, as the comrades have grown too old to care much about the sustaining of the order. Occasionally a meeting is held, but much of the vigor of the Post was lost with the removal of S. C. Goshorn to Malden Mo., some years ago.



Although not wholly "secret" in its workings, for want of a better opportunity it is best noted here that the W. C. T. U. society is flourishing and is each year increasing in power and efficiency.



Two humorous local organizations have done much to "give the laugh" to the

sober side of life. The N. O. D. club, a young ladies society, whose mystic name is untranslatable in modern tongue, (though its lettering is supposed to imply matrimonial suggestions,) is in active existence. So little is really known about the workings of this association of social eligibles, that no satisfactory descriptive report can be furnished. The B. and W.—Bachelors and Widowers—club is so famous locally that more than a mere mention of its existence were too much. Its occasional banquets call out the elite of the city.

In dismissing the subject of secret and other societies it is fair to state that much of the charitable work done in Ossian is due to their admirable service,—succoring the sick, defending the oppressed, is the keynote, so far as we know, of every active organization mentioned in the foregoing pages.



## Miscellaneous.



### The Creamery.

Some twelve or fifteen years ago several gentlemen conceived the idea of establishing a creamery in Ossian. It was reasonable to suppose that a country as prosperous

#### *Residence of J. C. Mason.*



as that in which we are situated would produce dairy products if the well-to-do agriculturalist could be induced to raise cattle for that purpose. Upon the promise that the men in power—that is to say, the farmers—would turn their attention to dairy farming, C. W. Eastman, W. M. Craig and J. C. Hatfield "rolled up their sleeves" so to speak, and set to work. But, although in matter of quality of product the Ossian Creamery was a pronounced success, it grew impossible after a time to





***Saw and Planing Mills.***

get sufficient cream to keep the establishment running in full blast. The idea of dairy farming has never taken much hold upon the farmers of Jefferson Township. Cattle, hogs, etc., are raised for the distant markets; it is better to realize at once upon the sale of fatted stock than to keep the stock for its worth, and other uses: such has been the reasoning of many of our most successful agriculturists.

This condition of affairs has made the fight of the creamery long and pretty much up hill. There was never a time when the "Climax" creamery butter did not get highest market prices. The only trouble was lack of quantity: the quality might not be impeached.

For a number of years J. C. Mason, and his several assistants—of whom Henry McClelland is to be especially remembered—toiled to make the work a success in the truest sense of the word. That they accomplished what they did is a matter of some importance. But custom and tradition and also perhaps "notion" caused the cream-furnishers to drop off, until the plant for the manufacture of the famous "Climax" butter, is all but at the end of its usefulness. It is felt in the near future, the creamery will be a thing of the past. A snuffed out candle; but not ingloriously so. It is rather a difficult proposition that any manufacturing business be successfully carried on, providing there is always a

lacking in raw material.



### **Grain Elevator.**

Some men seem born to seize upon opportunity, others appear to require the opportunity to seize upon the man. To the first class belong W. R. Beaty and T. A. Doan who appear to have made a success of everything they have attempted. With shipping facilities in the condition they are in; and many things in a questionable state of passivity, these gentlemen concluded to make

grain shipping one of the industries of West Ossian.

As long ago as 1890 T. A. Doan and the Hatfield firm began to experiment with the idea and branch out a little in grain buying. They built a fair-sized elevator near the trackswitch, and for a time this served the purpose of the investors.

In 1893 the firm changed: and Wm. Beaty and T. A. Doan became owners of the business.

They were able to handle the grain that came in to them. A slow gain at first, for several years, caused by poor shipping advantages, made the enterprise seem a doubtful equation to be resolved. However their perseverance won. Farmers began to realize that it paid them to sell to Beaty & Doan, and to bring their cereals to Ossian. They did so, found good prices, gentlemanly treatment and cordiality which made it seem advantageous and pleasant to sell here. This state of affairs necessitated the shippers increasing the size of their quarters. A large concubine was erected by the mill switch, furnished with a power sheller and other necessary apparatus, and controlled by the power from the mill. Then in 1899 the elevator was built and all the facilities for handling grain improved. The machinery for carrying for the produce, storing it, the contrivances which made it easy to do the work attempted were added and the building





**Grain Elevator.**

itself was erected, a pattern of convenience.

The capacity of the elevator is 8000 bushels of grain, without crowding. Three cars of grain can be taken in and two loaded a day, which is a fair figure for a town of this size. On an average the firm ships three car loads of grain a week.

That the enterprise is a good one and worth the investment there can be no doubt. Farmers will find it to their advantage to deal with this home firm: albeit there appears to be an Eldorado elsewhere—an Eldorado that never materializes when one seeks to find it by cutting old ties and old patronage.



### **L. E. & W. R. R.**

We are not blessed by railroad facilities, still the Muncie division of the L. E. & W. R. R. which passes through West Ossian affords sufficient rail convenience for all the traffic and passenger uses of the town. The road was surveyed away back in the

old days when the country was wild and the forests full of game, however the first engine was a long time in making its appearance. As a matter of fact the road was not in active operation until 1870. This branch railroad of a large line has changed hands many times, and apparently it has never been a very paying property. Under the management of the late Calvin Brice it assumed more dignity and importance than at any time previous.



**M. E. Spencer.**



**Residence of M. E. Spencer.**



The management of the road has always kept the depot and grounds in good condition, improving from time to time as it seemed good. Without exception all the Ossian employes of the company have been good fellows and perfect gentlemen. The present agent, M. E. Spencer, has been with us a number of years. He is an affable young man, strict in the performance of his duties and was a valued member of the town council. He owns one of the neatest residences upon beautiful Mill Street. Since his arrival in the city from his former home at Spiceland, he has been an able and respected citizen.



### Natural Gas.

Ever since the natural gas boom in Blackford County and southern Wells County filled the country with work and workers, the town has desired a modicum of like success. In vain, however, was this desire, for though we have made two fair tests for gas or oil, no results were obtained that justified even hope, much less an expenditure of money. But in spite of failure, the desire for gas accommodations caused the citizens of Ossian and vicinity to continually agitate the idea. Finally the Fort Wayne Gas Co., whose main line passes through the city, and who, it may be mentioned, subscribed liberally to our test wells, consented in the fall of 1896, to permit a "tap" off their 12-inch main, in order that the town might be supplied with fuel and light.

This kindness on the part of the Fort Wayne Gas Co. was realized after a great deal of agitating and importuning by our leading citizens. After it became pretty well assured that the Company would consent to a "tap", Jas. H. Keefer took the matter in hand and went about securing that which was so much desired.

As a matter of fact, the Company yielded to the wishes of the people, and put in a good service over nearly all the town, leaving the business

to be attended to by Jas. H. Keefer, the company's agent at this point.

The results of the decision of the company have been exceptionally satisfying. We now have nearly three miles of gas mains, and every one in the city who has the desire, is furnished with fuel and light. The price for service is so moderate, that in almost every instance the citizens prefer to use gas rather than be bothered with wood and coal.

At this place the Company has a tool- and store-house where many things are kept in case of an emergency occurring somewhere along the line—Ossian being a sort of a half-way station between Fort Wayne and Bluffton. This, together with a private telephone, all under the care of Mr. Keefer, makes accidents fewer and more easily controlled.

It is a pleasant matter to be able to say that the policy of the Company has always been in harmony with the best interests of the people.



### Facilities for Fighting Fire.

For many years the question, "are we prepared to fight fire?" would have required a strong negative answer. The several unsuccessful attempts to organize hook and ladder companies failed signally. At one time there was in actual existence

#### *Residence of W. R. Beaty.*





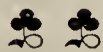
such a fire-fighting band but upon tests, it was found that nothing much could be done unless modern tactics were put in use. The need for an engine capable of performing good work was felt for years, but not until the fall of 1895, did the city fathers untie their purse-strings and let loose dollars enough to secure one.

With the appearance of the medium sized chemical hand engine, security once more fell over the village. To put jest aside, the little machine has done its

work faithfully, and many a time since its purchase saved the town from a large conflagration. The illustration on page 18 shows the engine all ready for a "run."

Recently the town ordered an hundred barrel cistern placed in the street just back of Hatfield's store. From this vantage point a fire in the main blocks will be easily controlled. Later other cisterns will be sunk, as seems best.

L. F. Wilson is present fire chief, and together with W. M. Craig, Harry Bunn, and several other leading spirits, is prepared to put up a pretty good fight against the terrible fire demon. There is no actual company—no real organization, still the necessary work in the hour of danger has always been well done by the volunteer service.



### Telephone System.

Ossian's first acquaintance with telephone communication was in 1882, when the Bell Telephone Company, now the Central Union Telephone Company, first put in a station here and a long distance line. But it was many years before any material advancement in the way of a local system was made. Not until Jas. H. Keefer in February, 1896, put up a private line between his house and office, did the citizens become convinced of the paying



*Residence of J. H. Young.*

utility of a small circuit. The long felt need of means of communication between the railroad, livery-stable and other places of business awoke a spirit of progress and in a short time the idea developed into a successful effort, and thirteen entered into an agreement with Mr. Keefer at the head as manager, and put up a "series line", which gave very satisfaction so far as local needs and uses went. There was still a desire for better means of communication, however.

In the summer of 1899, the Central Union Telephone Company made their agents, Roe Bros., a proposition to put in an exchange system giving each subscriber the privilege of long distance communication. This offer called forth a meeting of those owning phones, the result of which resulted in a resolution giving the Central Union Telephone Co. the right of way.

The system started in with about 16 subscribers, the line being erected in the fall.

Under the direction of Roe Bros. the exchange is cared for by Mrs. Nora Brickley.

The improvements over the former system are many and manifold. The fame and methods of the Central Union Telephone Company need no remark here. We deem the subscribers to the present mode of local and long distance telephone communication especially for-



tunate in having been able to secure that which is not often granted to a country town, no matter how flourishing, by the Central Union Telephone Company.



### Ossian News.

About fifteen years ago two men—DuBois and Huffman—succeeded in establishing in Ossian, a newspaper that was a pitiable failure. The *Ossian Weekly Telephone* managed to drag along a few months, and during that time precipitated its owners “head over ears” in debt with all the merchants in town. Although the support seemed fair, the men were unable to offer

askance, and began to rank him with his predecessors. Still, being of seemly appearance, a few men ventured their support. A number of subscribers were secured, and Mr. Keefer put his meager \$500 equipment into the old Naus building, now known as the “gas shop,” and began to issue the *Ossian News*. These quarters were too small to suit the editor of the journal that proposed to stay. Therefore in Feb. 1891, he moved his establishment entire into the north room of the Ossian House. The man’s sturdy determination to win overcame the doubts and prejudice of the people who had been “gold-bricked” by the *Weekly Telephone*. Subscriptions began to roll in, and advertising to boom



*Residence of Jas. H. Keefer.*

anything more than the mere semblance of a paper. The throes of its birth were nothing when compared with the agonies of its death. Every one—the merchants most of all—were glad when the “soul” of the *Telephone* “burst its bonds” and flew, heavenward, *somewhere* with its burden of debts, trailing behind like the unwieldy tail of a monster kite.

Later a man—Lipes—established a job office here and proposed to start another paper. He too flitted away leaving a people in darkness (?) and despair (?).

Naturally, when Jas. H. Keefer made his appearance on the streets of our city in Dec., 1890, and proposed to establish the *Ossian News*, people looked at him

up—our business men have always been sagacious enough to recognize the incalculable benefits to be received from judicious advertising.

Since the establishment of the *NEWS* it could command the repertorial service of such men as C. A. Carpenter, who at the first was enabled to boom the subscription by clever writing. In April, 1891, seeking larger quarters, Mr. Keefer moved into the upstairs rooms of the old postoffice building, here he had his living-rooms as well as

printing establishment. In these quarters the *NEWS* remained until increased prosperity induced the proprietor to build his present comfortable office to which place he removed in April, 1893.

The size of the paper at the starting was that of a simple 4 column quarto. This was issued three weeks, when the size was increased to that of a 5 column quarto, two pages being printed at home, the rest of the paper being “ready print” from the Fort Wayne Newspaper Union. This issue continued a year, at the expiration of which time, Mr. Keefer began to print four pages at home. Jan. 1st, 1898 the *NEWS* changed dress to brevier, and further made its appearance “pasted and





JASH. H. KEEFER, ED.

MRS. JASH. H. KEEFER

NEWS  
OFFICE

INTERIOR VIEW.

INTERIOR VIEW.

NELLIE EARL

J. VER KEEFER, DEVIL





***Residence of Mrs. Hiram Hatfield.***

trimmed" in its present neat form.

The office equipment has increased from \$500 to \$2,500.

Recently a large Jones-Gordon press and a serviceable low power gas engine were added. The job printing facilities of the NEWS plant are equal—indeed superior—to any in the county. The NEWS itself is a bright tasty readable weekly—a mirror which shows the faces of several hundred local celebrities each week. The number of subscribers has increased until the paper now covers a large individual field, representing the well-to-do peo-

ple not only of Jefferson Township but northern Wells County.



### **The Cemeteries.**

Lying just where the last beauty of the sunset strikes the solemn grave-stones is the Old Cemetery, situated immediately south of the small commons of the Presbyterian church, a quiet restful spot untroubled by the noise and bustle of man. Just such another place perhaps as the one of which is written these lines:

“Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-tree’s shade,

Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap.

Each in his narrow cell forever laid,  
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.”

This last resting place has fallen into disuse, and alas! many unmarked graves lie within its narrow limits. Each year a number of bodies are removed thence to the new cemetery, or as it is officially named, Oak Lawn cemetery.

In the year 1880 several of the citizens recognizing the necessity for a more

### ***Oak Lawn Cemetery.***





commodious home for the dead, formed an organization for the purpose of securing a large field for burial purposes. This association was incorporated duly under the laws of the state and named "The Oak Lawn Cemetery." There were thirteen original incorporators, and they purchased a tract of ground from Wm. Craig, paying \$1,000 for the privilege. At the present date the debt has been paid off, as 165 lots have been sold.

The object of the corporation is thus quaintly explained in the articles of the association:

"The object of the corporation, besides providing a quiet and secure repose for the dead, is to accumulate a fund, by the sale of burial lots, sufficient to enable the Association for all time to come, to so improve and ornament the grounds, as that they will always be a pleasing and attractive resort for the living. The ground shall be divided into sections of suitable size, and provided with suitable carriage ways and walks. It is hereby provided that one of the sections shall be dedicated to the use of the public, free to those who have no means to buy lots, and the graves of persons buried there shall be neatly sodded, and kept in order; and the corporation shall ornament and improve the said section in such a manner as the good taste and judgment of the managers shall suggest."



*Residence of E. A. Vail.*

The purpose of the association has thus far been faithfully carried out. Now that all debts are paid we may hope from time to time, for improvements which shall, even as is suggested in the articles, make Oak Lawn Cemetery an attractive resort for the living.

The present officers of the association are:

President, Geo. Harter.

Secretary, V. M. Hatfield.

Treasurer, L. F. Wilson.

We have every reason to be proud of Oak Lawn, as it is in keeping with the general progress. From time to time bodies from the Old Cemetery will be removed to the "new home" and nothing will be left of the former burial place but a memory and the dust of the unknown, unnamed, whose souls repose in the keeping of the Almighty, careless of the earth-casts broken from them.



## Biographical Sketches.



### J. C. Hatfield.

James C. Hatfield, whose name was for Murray, Indiana. He is the second son of years identified with the firm of Hatfield Hiram and Catherine Hatfield, who, as and Son, was born August 31, 1861 at early settlers in Wells County, underwent



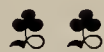
the usual hardships incident to such pioneer existence. In 1868, the father moved from Murray to Ossian and established a general store. And it was here that the subject of this sketch got his first knowledge of general business.

Mr. Hatfield was educated in the common schools of Ossian. At the age of 18 he was obliged to give up the idea of an education and forced to put his shoulder to the wheel. This he did by beginning to clerk in the store. Soon becoming a most trusty helper and standby, he was promoted, as the business interests grew, to the position of head of the Sheldon branch of the store, this was in 1883. In the same year Mr. Hatfield married Miss Ella Gorrell.

For one year and one-half, Mr. Hatfield remained *charge de affairs* at Sheldon, at the expiration of which time, the branch system was done away with and he returned to become head of the grocery department, which position he filled worthily until his political friends honored him by an office in the county government.

Mr. Hatfield's political career has shown how popular he is and what a firm hold he has upon the affections of the people. In 1884 he was elected township chairman by the republican party, then again in 1888

and in 1898. In 1898, he was nominated for County Clerk by the republicans, and in a county solidly democratic was elected Clerk by a majority of 2. This was a great victory and a high honor for he is the first republican Clerk ever elected in Wells County. Mr. Hatfield is an ardent republican, the politician of the family, a patriotic citizen, respected by all who know him. Possessed of a high degree of honor, those dependent can safely trust him.



### T. S. Cook.

A man who has been very successful in his chosen business and who has striven to fulfill faithfully the trusts laid upon him, is our friend and fellow citizen, Mr. T. S. Cook. He was born in 1859, near Basil, Ohio, and is of German descent. He received his education in Fairfield Co., Ohio, and spent his early life upon the farm. This labor he esteemed a delight, but business considerations finally determined him to leave Ohio and settle in Ossian. Accordingly, in the year 1889, he moved to Ossian, and in 1892 established his present business of supplying the people with conscientiously selected proprietary medicines. To this work Mr. Cook has given some of the best hours of his life and throughout it all has sought to elevate the profession and prove a blessing to all who deal with him. As a salesman he has made an enviable record, in the year 1898 having sold 2699 of the \$1.00 remedies and 2,500 of the smaller size packages.

When Mr. Cook started out in '92 to cover his territory, he went on foot with no other aid than an established reputation for honesty and integrity. His business continued to grow each year until he now owns an elegant outfit. This is one of the finest patent medicine "rigs" in use among regular agents, and Mr. Cook is to be congratulated for possessing it, also for giving such eminent satisfaction in the way of supplying what he believes to be good honest goods.

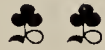
Mr. Cook represents the Progress Medicine Co., of Indianapolis, and is general agent of eleven counties. He has regular



J. C. Hatfield.



routes over which he travels to supply a large trade—a trade which he has built up by fair and honest methods of dealing. He is well and favorably known by all our business men.

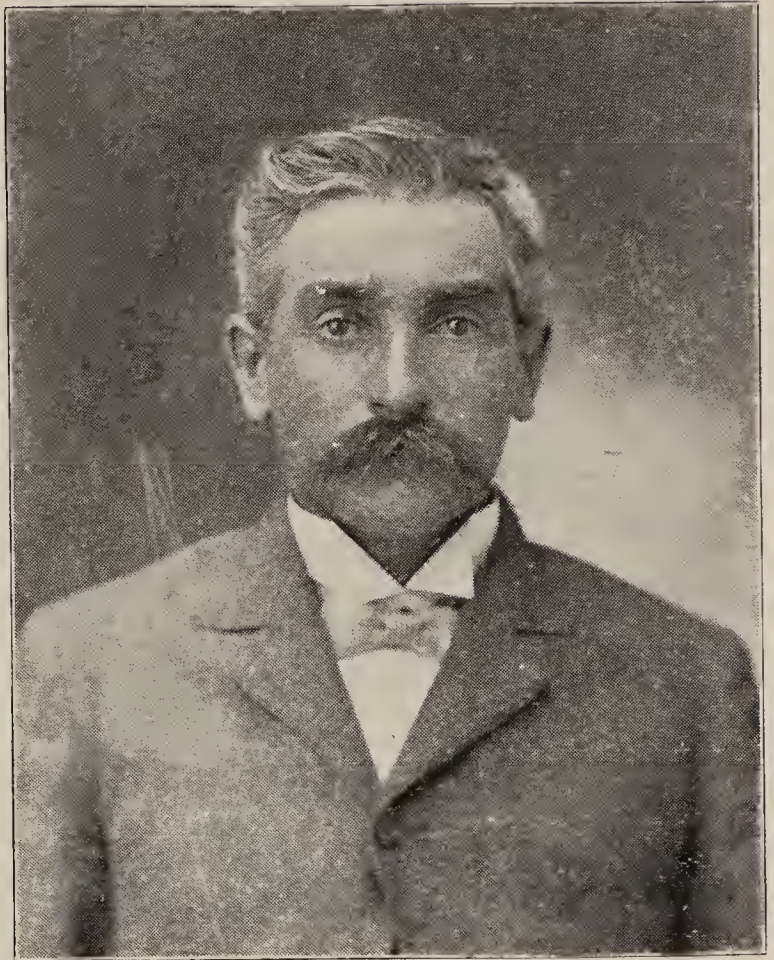


### Jacob W. Osborn.

The year 1857 was the birth year of Jacob Osborn who is the largest contractor living in Ossian. He is the son of Levi and Catherine Osborn, pioneer settlers of Union Township. These people of good English stock moved in from Eastern Ohio when the broad cultivated acres, upon which they now reside, were massed and covered with heavy timber and thick underbrush. Being people of zeal and pluck, they soon made a showing upon the forests, and became by their efforts, well-to-do, respected farmers.

Jacob Osborn spent his early life in Union Township, getting his education in the common schools, and assisting upon his father's farm. He was, however, possessed of a natural attitude for carpentering—an attitude which almost amounted to genius, for he mastered the secrets of the trade, and worked his way up to the top notch in the art of building by his own untiring efforts. It is truly a remarkable fact that skilled as he is, Mr. Osborn never served an apprenticeship, having always been his own master and instructor.

In 1891 he moved from a farm upon which he had been working, purchased property in Ossian, and launched himself out on a then to him, almost untried sea. Starting single handed with such a knowledge as came from pure natural ability he made an immediate success, and his work gained forthwith. Soon he was taking contracts and was obliged to get assistance. For the last



*Jacob W. Osborn.*

year he has been running a gang of hands, furnishing four or five men with steady



*Residence of Dr. A. H. Metts.*

employment almost the year around, at intervals enlarging upon his present force.

As a framer Mr. Osborn has few equals in this part of the country. He does his own designing, and all architectural work which comes in his line of business. He has labor at all times, and is one of our busiest citizens.

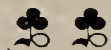


### John S. Krewson.

Well known by reason of his useful professional service and his share in the social and industrial circles of Ossian, is John S. Krewson, who for sixteen years has been the chief notary public of our city. Born March 4th 1846 in Sarahsville, Noble Co., Ohio, he has lived five decades of varied existence.

Mr. Krewson is of German-Irish descent, and his parents were among the first to brave the hardships of the new country. In November 1846 the family emigrated from Ohio to the old Krewson Homestead, and there underwent all the privations incident to pioneer life. The mother and four small children spent the first two winters alone in a rude cabin in the midst of an almost trackless woods, while the father worked in Fort Wayne for the necessities of life. Twice, the father, Mr. Simon Krewson, went to California in hope of bettering his fortunes, (1850-1853).

He was educated in the Ossian Common Schools, at the M. E. College, Fort Wayne, and at the Oberlin Business college. He has passed through many business vicissitudes, having been teacher, clerk in store, deputy recorder in Kansas, and finally owner of a general store in Ossian. In 1894 he disposed of the general store and a year later purchased the furniture store. This business he soon sold, retiring then to his small farm which adjoins the town on the north, where he now resides. He is at present a raiser of stock, poultry, fine fruit and vegetables. His notary work is still one of the leading features of his professional life. At present he is making a specialty of presenting pension claims, acting under and with Todd & Todd, of Bluffton. As the head of a collecting agency, also as dealer in real estate he is a busy man. He is an especially active church worker and is secretary of the Building Committee for the new church: treasurer of Board of Stewards, and Recording Secretary for the Quarterly Conference.



### W. A Woodward.

Wilson A. Woodward, the genial whole-souled subject of this biographical sketch, was born August 2, 1866, in Jefferson Township, Wells Co., Indiana. As is well known, he is the son of Abraham and Mary Woodward, whose names are connected with the pioneer efforts in this country. Of English descent, re-



*Residence of J. S. Krewson.*

He enlisted in Co. G, 191st Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and died at Gallatin, Tenn., in April 1863. The mother survived until January 23rd, 1896, and during all her life of struggle exemplified the beautiful teachings of christianity.

The subject of this sketch surrounded as he was in youth by almost insurmountable difficulties managed to attain a recognized footing early in life.

spected and widely acquainted, the name requires no introduction to the readers of this volume.

An enterprising, progressive man, Mr. Woodward has friends wherever he is known, and there are few readers of the NEWS unacquainted with his popularity. A friend to those things which promise advancement to his native city, it is probable that the gentleman will always be as high-





DR. M. N.  
NEWMAN

DR. A. G.  
GORRELL

DR. J. I.  
METTS

DR. A. H. METTS

DR. FRED METTS



ly esteemed by his fellows as at the present time.

Mr. Woodward was educated in the common schools of this city. Like many of our business men, he spent a great part of his early life wrestling with agricultural problems. At last becoming dissatisfied with farm life he came to town, and in 1890, went into the meat market now conducted by his brother John Woodward (whose sketch appears elsewhere). For three years W. A. Woodward busied himself with shop-work, then his political friends showed their esteem, and also faith in his ability, and as a result, in 1893, he became postmaster, which position he filled with credit to himself and the administration in power. In 1897, the wheels of government having again passed into the control of another political party, Mr. Woodward sought other employment, and since that time has been actively and prosperously engaged as one of our foremost dealers in live-stock.



**W. A. Woodward.**

He is one of our most clever, agreeable and sensible men—a man who is respected by his political connections, and honored by the many friends, scattered over Wells and adjoining counties.

In every way Wils is one of our leading citizens.



### **Nathan Weaver.**

No business man in Ossian has applied himself more closely to his chosen life-work than Nathan Weaver, our enterprising harness manufacturer and dealer. He was born in the year 1857, in Center Co., Pa., a son of Solomon and Julian Weaver, and is of German descent. He received his early education in the common schools of Center Co. By the death of his parents he was obliged to forego his desires for wider knowledge, and was forced to solve the bread-winning problem early in life. Upon the loss of his parents he left the farm and began to learn his present trade. Habits of frugality and industry conduced to give him many friends and patrons. In December 1877, he came to Ossian and settled down to the work. From 1881 to 1883 he was in partnership with his brother Harvey Weaver, who removed, leaving him to undisputed possession of the territory here. Since that time Nate has suc-

cessfully supplied the growing demands of the surrounding country. Having the only harness shop in town he does a large volume of business each year. He owns a charming residence on Main and LeFever streets, and contemplates the building of a brick business place in a short time.

By careful, judicious management, Mr. Weaver has drawn many patrons into Ossian. Never exorbitant in his prices he nevertheless charges enough to insure a good quality of work. Materials he uses in his business are all of the very highest quality purchaseable. A complete line of every equipment necessary for saddling, driving, hauling or farm work can be seen at his shop on Main street. Mr. Weaver is to be congratulated for his prosperity. He is the sort of business man who builds up and draws trade to his city. He is pleased at all times to show his goods, and is proud of the fact that he controls the trade throughout a large section, drawing patrons from the direct territory of several contemporary businesses.



### **Edwin T. Hawley.**

Edwin T. Hawley, the cleverest carpenter and contractor, and one of the most careful work men we have ever had

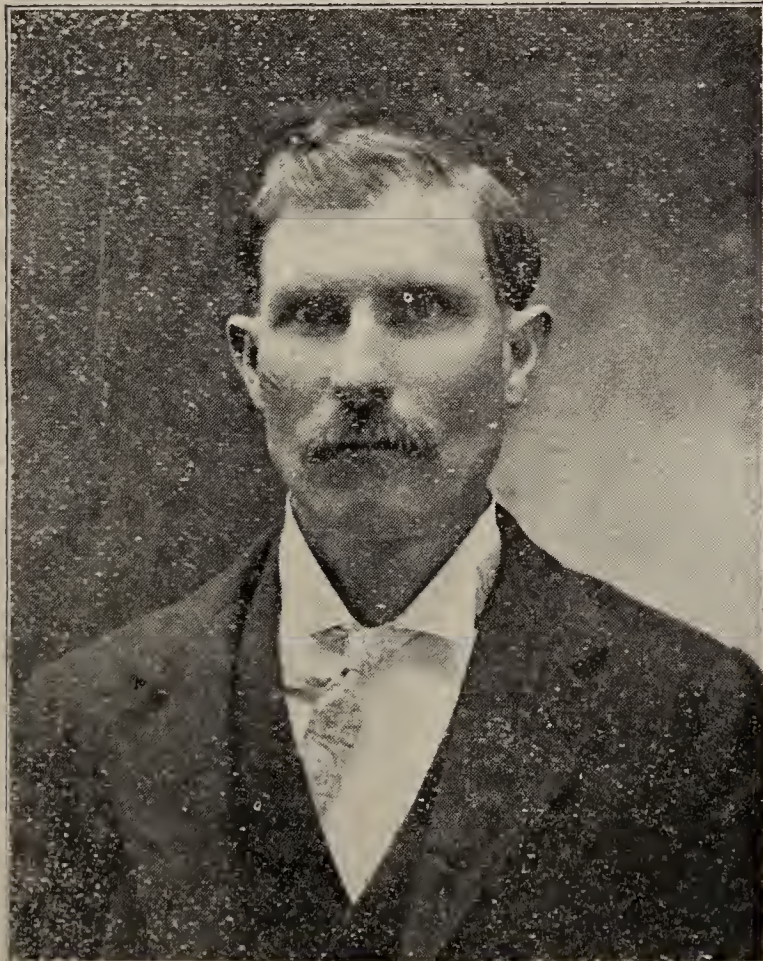


in this city, was born in Mason Co., Kentucky in 1861. His parents and people are persons of eminence and respectability in his native state.

Mr. Hawley was educated in the Mason Co., common schools, and in the K. C. B. College, located in Burbon Co. Early his mind adapted itself to mechanical labors, and upon his father's farm he learned the first elements of the trade he has since so successfully followed. A natural liking for tools led him to study carpentering, and

his first work was done upon his father's own fine residence. The peculiar aptitude he showed for such labor induced him to go into the business more seriously than at first had been his intention.

It 1887 he left his native state and located in Muncie, Ind. Here he worked at his trade upon some of the most palatial structures in the city. For a time he was in the employ of one of the largest contractors in Indianapolis, and acquitted



**Edwin T. Hawley.**



**Residence of Dr. A. G. Gorrell.**

himself with honor in all his undertakings. In 1888 he came to Ossian in the interest of the Muncie Pulp Company: being pleased with the people, and realizing that there was an opportunity here for a man of his tastes, he shortly began to work at his trade. In point of fact he has built some of the handsomest residences in the city; and since the establishing of his work here in 1889, he has won the reputation of being the best carpenter in Ossian.

Mr. Hawley is a thorough gentleman, and is highly respected by the most intelligent persons in this vicinity. Always in sympathy with matters of educational import, his advice and conversation is valuable to those interested in mental progress.

Laying aside this phase, Mr. Hawley is to be remembered especially for the good, substantial efforts he has made to raise the ideals of this vicinity in house-building.



### **Jacob Fatscher.**

When it comes to merchant tailoring Ossian has no cause to be afraid of her representative in that line of business. Mr. Jacob Fatscher learned the tailoring trade among people who were accustomed to do correctly whatever they tried to accom-



plish.

Mr. Fatscher was born July 8, 1850 in Rein Bayern, Germany. When but two years of age his parents left the fatherland and located in Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Fatscher's early years were spent with his father in his shop, acquiring the principle which has made him the champion tailor of Wells County. In 1869 he went to a "cutting school" for two terms to perfect the knowledge he had already become master of. Until 1889 Mr. Fatscher worked in his father's large establishment, and fashioned fancy habiliments for many of the elite of Brooklyn, then tiring of the city he came to Ossian on a trip of investigation and in 1889 established his business here. A success from the beginning, Mr. Fatscher's trade increased until he was obliged to move his shop from his residence to the new room on Main street. Here an ever increasing trade has occupied all his time.

Mr. Fatscher's work stands comparison with that of any tailor in the state. Long experience in the fashionable shop in New York cultivated a taste, and gave an experience and knowledge not met with among ordinary contemporary workmen. A general increase in patronage has necessitated from time to time alterations in the business room occupied. Mr. Fatscher is a very busy man and finds employment not alone for himself but his son Henry who is a neat capable workman. It would be a hard matter to find a more affable, jovial, patriotic, whole-hearted man than this same enterprising Jacob Fatscher, sole merchant tailor of the town of Ossian.

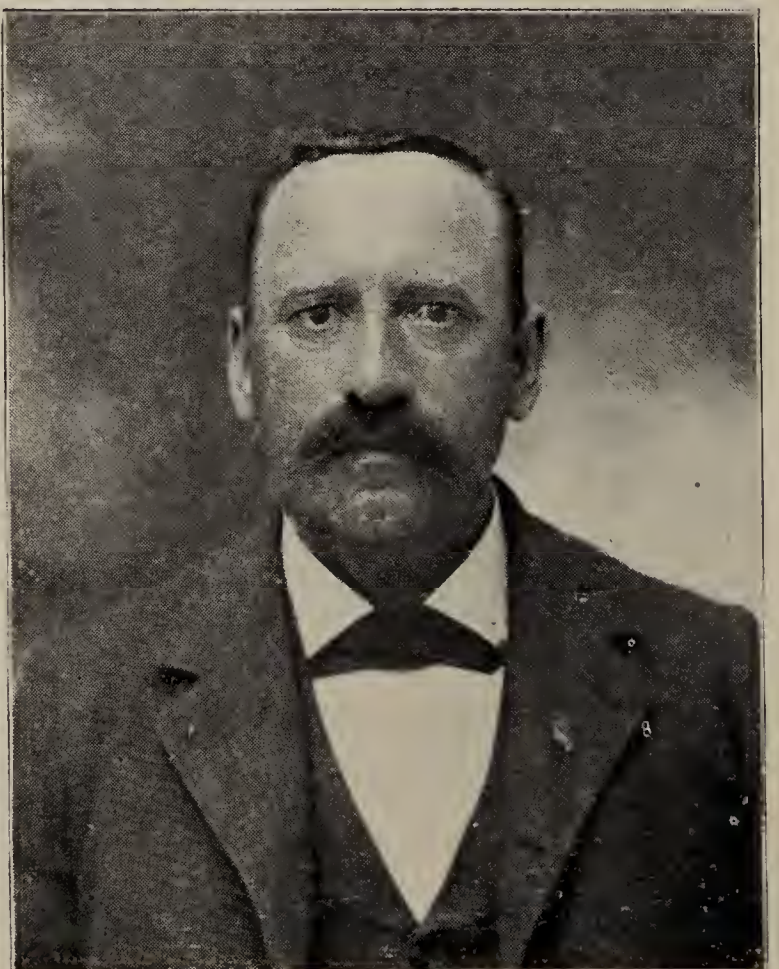


### O. W. Reed.

Of those who are recognized as enterprising business men, and sober and industrious citizens, none rank higher or more worthily than O. W. Reed, who has been identified with the many phases of manual industry about Ossian for many years. Mr. Reed was born September 21, 1855, near this city, of parents who came to this section in early days. Of German-English descent, Mr. Reed has the best character traits of both noble races. His father dying when he was young, left him

to shift and struggle pretty much for himself. When but 11 years old, he commenced "to do" for himself, and worked for ten years by the month at wages which wouldn't induce many young men to be brave enough to follow his example. Being naturally at home with tools, the young man conceived within his heart a longing for a more substantial trade than working at another's beckon and command. Accordingly, feeling his way, he set out to learn carpentering. This seemed to be work at which Mr. Reed could properly employ his talents and make a good living. For fifteen years he was thus engaged, then seeing what appeared to be a good opening, he embarked in the line of wagon building, repair work, and what is known as the "implement business," or the selling of some standard grade of farm conveniences, machines, plows and other soil-tilling necessities.

Mr. Reed's present business was established in 1890, and has been an eminently prosperous one. In the near future, however, he contemplates devoting the whole of his time to the "implement business" as there seems to be an increasing demand for reliable machines. As it is known that the gentleman handles nothing but the best makes and highest grades of



O. W. Reed.





*Residence of David Craig.*

farm necessities, he will no doubt draw a large patronage from far in the country, where he is universally known and respected.



### **Abner S. Elzey.**

The man who has been at the head of all the leading undertakings which have for their motto the welfare of Ossian, is Abner S. Elzey, the funeral director of this city. Mr. Elzey's progress is a matter of comment by all who know of the early obstacles which beset his path. How he persevered and finally won, is an interesting bit of history.

Mr. Elzey was born Oct. 30, 1868, in Washington Township, Adams Co., and his parents, Elisha and Rebecca Elzey, are well known to the older citizens of Decatur. When but five years of age the mother died, leaving Abner a heart-broken youth with a long life-fight before him. Right manfully he labored, first by his father's side, then for years in one of the Decatur factories. He had, as may be imagined, few opportunities to cultivate his love for books; yet he managed to gain a fair education by studying whenever he could find an unoccupied moment. For a time he attended the Decatur schools, but, practically speaking, Mr. Elzey is a self-educated man, and has a right to be proud of the fact.

At the age of 18 he left the factory, and in 1888 he went to work for Shaefer & Loch, the leading hardware dealers, in Decatur. In 1894 this firm sent Mr. Elzey to Ossian to establish a hardware store. This work was not such that Mr. Elzey's talents were appealed to, therefore, in 1895, he purchased the undertaking business from Thurber & Salisbury, and added new black and white funeral cars. Here Mr. Elzey seemed to find the business for which he was eminently well fitted, and

from the beginning, his efforts in this line have been particularly successful. Being a progressive man, Mr. Elzey, as his territory grew larger, became interested in the undertaking profession in surrounding towns, until at the present time he largely controls the funeral directorships in Hoagland, Heckley, Domestic, Woodburn and Westpoint; he is also interested in a Warren establishment.

As a student of the art of embalming, Mr. Elzey has made great progress. He is now an acknowledged artist in this special line—is so recognized by the leading members of his profession.

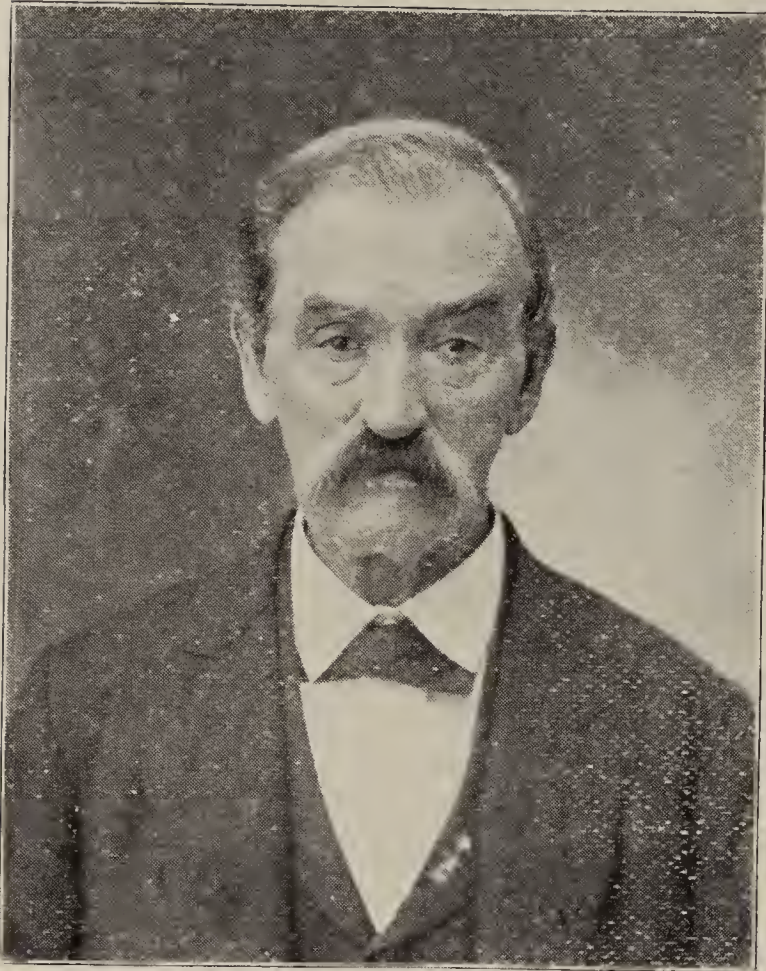


### **Capt. J. L. Leslie.**

If for no other reason than the greatness of past histrionic days, Captain J. L. Leslie's name is a welcome one on our pages. After a long varied life, he has settled down in quiet retirement in Ossian, content to employ the meaner branches of the arts which once made him a name and livelihood in the larger cities. It is of peculiar interest to follow the main epochs in a career so tolerably eminent.

Capt. J. L. Leslie, was born in Grave-creek (Moundville), Virginia, Sept. 26, 1824, of parents descended from the followers of the Scottish hero, Robert Bruce. His father dying when young, left the





**Capt. J. L. Leslie.**

boy to shift for himself. When six years of age, his mother moved to Pittsburg, and here as a boy, Mr. Leslie had an opportunity to see many fine plays. Here it was that the love of the stage began to take hold upon his imagination. After receiving his education at Washington, Pa., he went to Kittanning to learn a trade. Here he developed his skill for painting, and here too he found that he could play sub-parts creditably. The love for histrionic things decided him to become an actor. Accordingly he bent every energy to the task, and before the war, played with MacFarland, McBride and other great artists. For eight years, he was more than a tolerable scenic artist, as well as an acceptable actor before large audiences. By his painting of scenery for large companies, and the acting with famous comedians, he acquired no mean reputation.

At the outbreak of the war, he gave up everything for the sake of serving his country, and at Tittusville, Pa., organized his company for the front—Co. D, 19th Pa. Cav. In service, he was a bold leader, was a prisoner 19 months, and lay incarcerated in eleven rebel prisons. At the end of the war, he was mustered out, left the stage and adopted painting for his concluding life work.

In 1886, he came to Ossian, and setting up a scenic studio, painted and built the beautiful stage effects for Hatfield's Hall. Since then, he has made Ossian his main headquarters, though for some time he resided in Bluffton. As a painter and paper hanger, and as a scenic artist, he is well and favorably known throughout the country.



**Dr. Miles N. Newman.**

Dr. Miles N. Newman, one of Ossian's accomplished physicians, and the present city health officer, was born in Birmingham, Iowa, in the year 1843, of German-English parents. He received his early education in Iowa at the common schools, and spent the first sixteen years of his life upon his father's farm. A desire for broader education was the incentive which caused him to matriculate at the Iowa Wesleyan University, at Mount Pleasant. After attending college a year, patriotism prompted the student to lay aside books and pen, and take up the saber and knapsack. In August of 1861, he enlisted in Co. H, 3rd Iowa Cav., and for four long years, followed the fortunes of the "stars and stripes." On many a well-fought field he proved his latent qualities of resolution and valor, participating in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged.

After his discharge at the close of the war, Mr. Newman began the study of medicine, graduating from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, Iowa, in 1871.

Since that time Dr. Newman has been a successful practitioner of medicine. His years of professional services in Iowa, Kansas and Indiana have been prosperous ones. In 1877, he settled in Ossian, and since that date, he has been actively engaged in his chosen life-work.

□ In 1885, Dr. Newman was elected trustee of Jefferson Township, and it is only fair to state that it was during his term of office that more school buildings were erected and educational affairs more largely promoted than at any other time in the history of Ossian, remembering with due regard our later advancements.



Dr. Newman is one of our most respected citizens.



### Dr. Andrew G. Gorrell.

Dr. Andrew G. Gorrell, one of our leading physicians, noted for his careful and conservative treatment of disease, was born in Warren, Ohio, of parents who were among the first to brave the dangers of the untried Western wilderness, as Indiana was called half a century ago. The doctor came of good old Scotch-Irish stock—a race whose fiery ardor not even the chilly blasts of adversity could dampen—a people of strong religious inclinations: integrity inherited for many generations.

The young doctor-to-be spent his early boyhood days in the clearing with the ax, and on the stumpy field behind the plow. He received his early education at Ossian, and fought his way upward against the many exigencies and difficulties that confronted him. When the war broke out in 1861, he was one of the first to offer himself to his country, and from September, 1861 to February, 1866, he followed the flag with the passion, vehemence and patriotism that characterized his early fathers. On a hundred hard-fought battle fields he received that experience which influenced his life.

After his discharge, at the close of the war, the subject of the sketch began the study of medicine with his brother, Dr. J. R. Gorrell of Newton, Iowa,—finishing at Ann Arbor, Michigan. He holds a diploma from the medical department of that noted institution as well as one from the medical department of the state university of Iowa.

Dr. Gorrell practiced successfully many years in the west as well as in Indiana. His health, however, obliged him for a time to quit active practice in Iowa, where he was becoming widely known because

of his careful and painstaking study of and treatment of disease.

In 1895, the doctor began work in his present territory, his efforts soon gained him a wide patronage. He is an active church worker, a patriotic, conservative citizen, a type of our representative men of Ossian.



### J. E. Allen.

J. E. Allen, the only man who has ever made the "Star Restaurant" a success, came to his present ownership through changes, trials, troubles vicissitudes enough to have disheartened the living soul of almost any man. No man has ever more worthily won the respect of a large patronage than he.

Mr. Allen was born May 12, 1861 near Ossian, the son of S. B. and Hanna Allen. He is descended from the strain that produced that grand old hero of the revolution—Ethan Allen. Educated in the common school, he early left his studies to be-



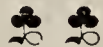
*Residence of Mrs. Sarah Cartwright.*

come a bread winner. The very severe labor on the factory and in the ditch, brought on rheumatism, therefore turning his attention to the restaurant business in 1893, he purchased the "Star". After trying that until 1895, he thought to better himself by a change into the hardware store. This move being unsatisfactory, Mr.



Allen, in July, 1896, moved to Warren and went into the livery business. Selling there, he returned to the restaurant idea and in October 1896 went to Markle. Here he would have continued had not the ill health of his wife necessitated her being removed to a more suitable climate. With great sadness in his heart, fearing the inevitable result, he moved to Las Vegas, New Mexico, April 1897. Torn by alternating hopes and despair, he lived for two years in the climate to which his wife had been recommended by the best physicians. During this time he was employed in the shops of the A. T. & S. F. railroad. All efforts to better Mrs. Allen's condition having failed, with great sadness the little family returned to Ossian, and Mr. Allen again purchased the "Star Restaurant" which had passed through several hands since he left.

Whatever can belong to an up-to-date equipment we find in the Allen restaurant. Having taken great pains to make his stock attractive to all customers he is winning a large patronage. As a man, Mr. Allen is a good, patriotic, enterprising citizen and a valued addition to the business fraternity here.



### Clark Quackenbush.

Clark Quackenbush, Ossian's enterprising baker, was born in 1863 in Union Township, Wells Co. Indiana, the only son of Thomas W. and Phoebe Quackenbush, both of whom have passed into the land of promise.

Mr. Quackenbush's ancestry was German, and moral and intelligent "stand-bys" in the early history of pioneer efforts. The subject of this sketch received his schooling at this place and at Milford: ill health obliging him to leave much unfinished that would otherwise have been an ambition and pleasure to acquire. While at Milford, Indiana, whence his father removed in 1880, the young man had the opportunity to learn the trade which he has successfully followed all his life. It was at Milford in his father's grocery and bake-shop that he acquired the taste which determined him in his choice of a life-labor.



*J. E. Allen.*

In the year 1880, the present business was established under the name Quackenbush & Son, and for several years the senior member of the firm struggled on in a small shop further up in the city. In 1882 the present bakery was erected, the oven built, and preparations made for supplying the growing trade with fine breads, cakes, groceries and confectioneries. From this time on the growth of the business was gradual and sure, and for a number of years the Quackenbush bakery and restaurant was the only one in Ossian, gaining trade because of its merit and reliability.

In 1899, the death of the senior member of the firm, left the business in control of the subject of this sketch, and affairs are moving along in a prosperous way under his careful management. A dwelling house was erected, in close proximity to the shop, by Mr. Quackenbush, last year, and the property in other ways improved.

Taken all in all Mr. Clark Quackenbush is one of our most reliable, well-to-do business men.



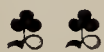
### John Woodward.

Mr. John Woodward, the enterprising butcher, by careful management has built up his business until it ranks favorably with similar establishments. He is the



son of Abram Woodward, well known to all the pioneer citizens, and to all who have spent much time on the "stock exchange". For many years a conservative buyer of live stock, it was to be expected that the father's name would be connected with the consumption of meats in Ossian.

The subject of this sketch was born in Jefferson township in the year 1863. Then it was that he received his schooling and early impetus in business. The early part of his life he spent upon his father's farm: till showing an aptitude for milling, he began to work on the grist mill. An unfortunate accident which injured an arm, determined Mr. Woodward to leave the flouring profession and enter one less dangerous and one more lucrative. Accordingly in 1892, he established the present meat shop and began to study the desire of his customers. There had been many make-shifts of shops before Mr. Woodward's time, but after passing into his control the business righted itself, machinery was added, capacity was increased. Now a wagon is on the road in the interests of the firm in the summer, care is taken to make the customers on the several routes satisfied with the manner of dealings. Altogether Mr. Woodward is steadily seeking to increase the facilities of the shop and furnish a class of goods acceptable to the public taste. As the Woodward meat-shop supplies the entire town it is to be taken for granted that the gentleman who manages the affairs is a busy man, as it is no small job to furnish the town trade and at the same time afford country buyers with an opportunity to get good fresh meats.



### Harry Nill.

Our commonwealth is fortunate enough to possess an exclusive boot and shoe deal-



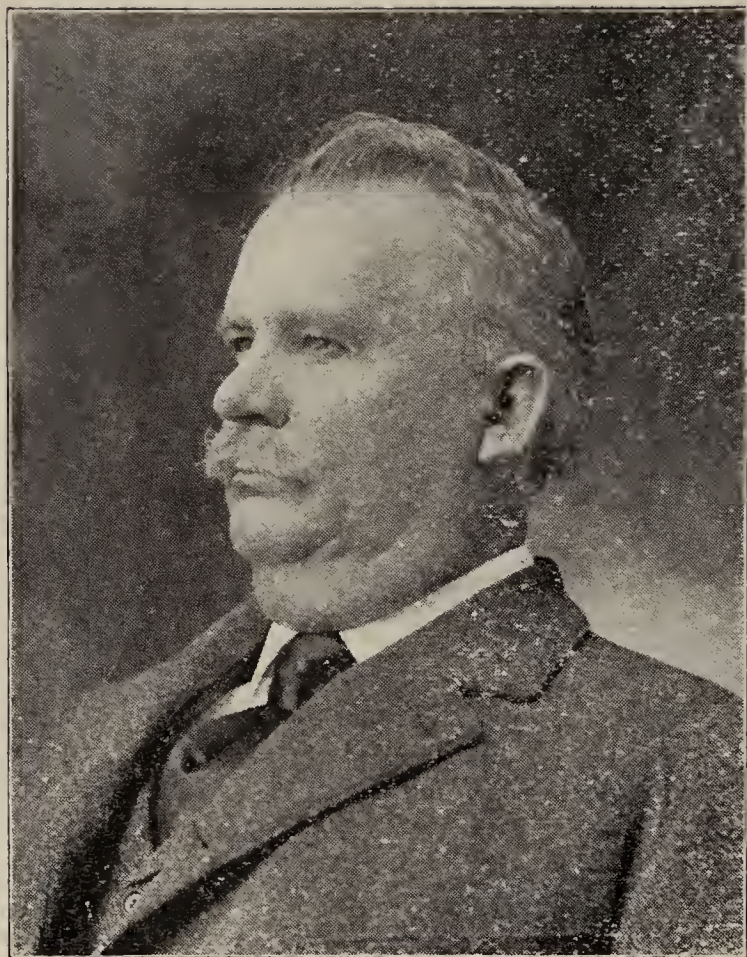
*Residence of W. H. Rupright.*

er and manufacturer in the person of Harry Nill. Mr. Nill was born in Fort Wayne in the year 1843, of German parents, and was educated in that city, where he spent his early youth and manhood. It was there that he learned the trade which enabled him to work his way up to a successful shoe merchant and salesman.

In 1862 Mr. Nill responded to the call for patriots, and marched away to the south to protect the flag. For three years he saw active service and participated in the many engagements in which his regiment was a sharer. For sixteen months he was an inmate of a loathsome rebel prison, and during that time, felt all the bitter privations of war. Upon return home Mr. Nill continued to work at his trade, removing from Fort Wayne to Williamsport after a time.

From Williamsport, Mr. Nill removed to Ossian and in 1889, established business here on a much smaller scale than is now supposable, judging from his fine brick business room at present occupied. The patronage of Mr. Nill increased rapidly from the first, and he soon grew to be one of our most successful and prosperous business men. In 1893, trade had increased to such an extent that a large building became necessary; and accordingly the brick building was erected, and now remains one of the signs of our little city's advancement. Not being content with enlarging





**Harry Nill.**

his stock, the proprietor added other costly improvements in the line of sewing and manufacturing machines. In seeking to supply the people with the best goods procurable, Mr. Nill has given and is giving satisfaction to great numbers of customers—which numbers are constantly growing. It is somewhat of an honor to possess the sort of an establishment of which Mr. Nill is owner.



**Miss Cora Hood.**

In the person of Miss Cora Hood, Ossian recognizes a most estimable and popular woman, who has had during her life in the city, as much to do with many of the social reforms, as any other local Christ-worker we could mention. An active, energetic, agreeable and efficient student of social needs, Miss Hood has achieved her popularity by earning every bit of it—covering the ground, inch by inch, she has endeared her life to those for whom she has unhesitatingly given herself.

Miss Hood was born in Harlan, Ind., and is the daughter of Samuel and Louisa Hood, persons of good family, who are kindly remembered by all the older readers of this edition. Many years ago, the parents and the then young family, moved to

Ossian, where there was work for the father. After the death of Mr. Hood, Miss Cora decided to remain close to her mother's side, and since that time, has labored at her present avocation—dress-making. Establishing this business in 1888, she had her sewing rooms in her residence on Mill street. Recently she moved to a room in the "Ossian House" where she now meets all her well pleased patrons.

It is not as a business woman only that Miss Hood is to be remembered. Her social life and work deserve a more than passing notice. A member of the M. E. church, she has been one of its leading workers for a number of years. In 1892, she was made superintendent of the Junior Epworth League, which office she still holds to the entire satisfaction of that organization. That the efficiency of her services were recognized by others, it is reasonable to suppose, since she was elected 2nd vice president of Fort Wayne District Epworth League in June, 1897. June 21, 1899, she was again honored by office—this time that of District president. Not alone in church work does Miss Hood conspicuously figure. Her services for the Garland Temple, Rathbone Sisters, have been most eminent ones. In October, 1898, she was appointed as one of the committee on Appeals and Grievances in Grand Temple of Rathbone Sisters, by Grand Chief, Eva B. Rohbock.

In the order she is now M. of R. & C

In September, 1898, she was elected vice president of the W. C. T. U., and at present she is corresponding secretary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society.

Comment upon the life of this charming woman worker for humanity's sake is unnecessary.

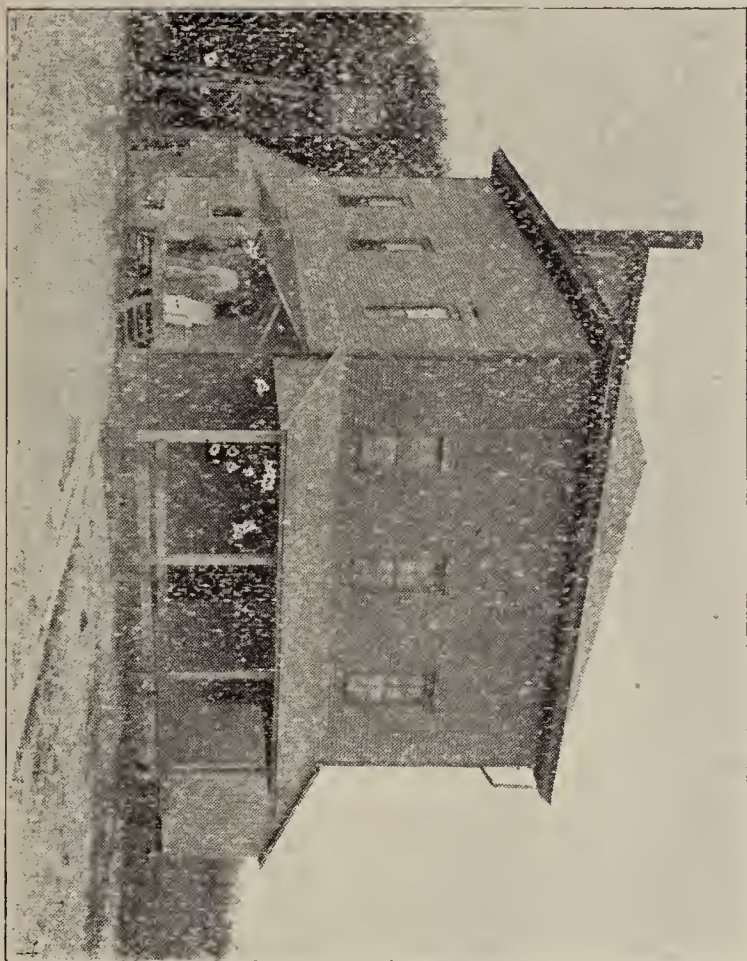


**M. E. Hursh.**

When it comes to the production of good flour it is Ossian's turn to grow loud and exceedingly boastful. If we excel in anything, it is in the quality of the flour output. And it is an undisputable fact that the man who has made the best flour ever produced in Ossian, is Milton E. Hursh, the subject of this biographical sketch.

Mr. Hursh was born in Urbana, Ind. A





**Flouring Mill.**

son of a successful miller, he learned in his father's employ, all the secrets which concern the milling business. It was in Urbana that his early education was received, and where all his embryo energies were called forth and developed. It is an old saying that "good millers are rare as wheat grains on oat stalks"; but in spite of the seeming paradox, analogously speaking, every body concedes M. E. Hursh to be that same thing—a boss up-to-date miller, as genial, affable a gentleman as ever ground flour in a town hitherto unentered by a practical millwright.

Mr. Hursh's present business was established in 1892. He was first here in a partnership with John Rex, but finally deciding that he would prefer to continue the work on his own plans, he bought the mill, and has since that time had a success that is really remarkable. Strict attention to his business, knowledge of all the essentials, habits of economy and industry cultivated from childhood, have made Mr. Hursh the man he is. The farmers have long ago realized that when they desire good results they must bring their grists to Ossian and leave them with M. E. Hursh. It counts for considerable that the only practical, successful miller in the county is giving his time and attention

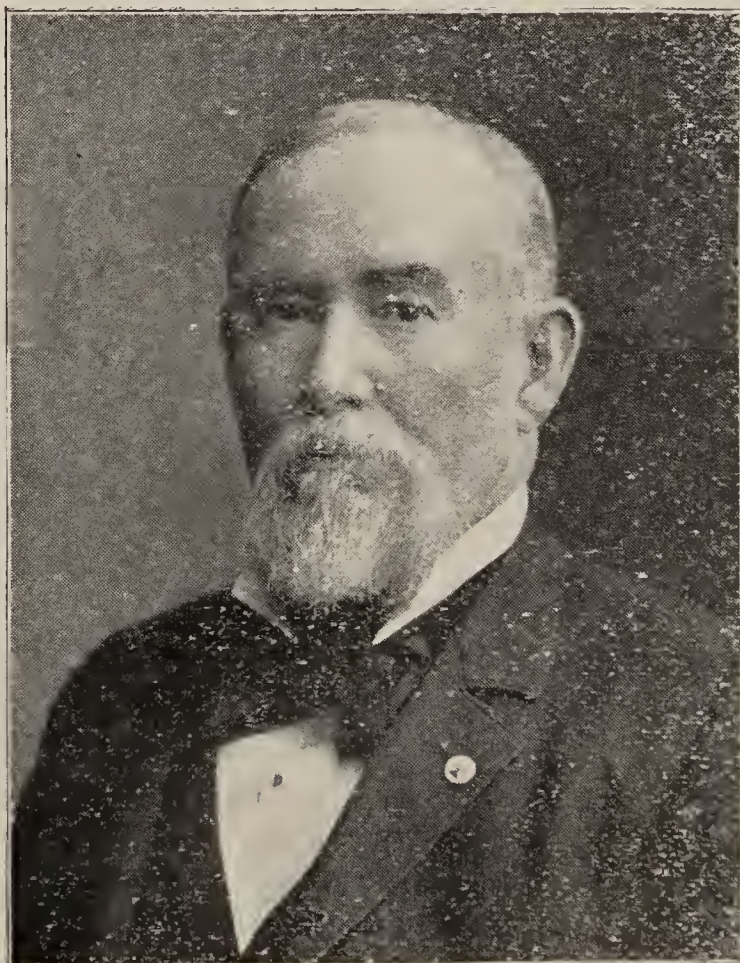
to the business in this city. The town has every reason to feel elated that this is true.



**Dr. J. R. Gorrell.**

It has been given to Ossian to produce occasionally men of whom not alone the sources whence they sprang are proud, but as well the surrounding country that witnessed their genesis, development and glowing successes. To this class of men belongs Dr. J. R. Gorrell now an influential light of medicine and statescraft in the state of Iowa. His life-history, it seems to us, is worth vastly more than the mere cursory mention which shall follow, since he, a former "Ossian boy", has risen "in the very teeth of the storm" to rare attainments in his profession and to positions of unquestioned honor and trust in civics. Indeed Dr. Gorrell has advanced eminently beyond those places accorded men of tolerable promise: and that we are privileged to mention him and sketch something of his life in this lasting Souvenir of the Ossian NEWS, is an imperial honor.

Dr. J. R. Gorrell, fifth son of Joseph and Esther (Glass) Gorrell, was born in Trumbull Co., Ohio, May 6th, 1835. Of his ancestry it may be briefly stated that the Gorrells emigrated from the island of



**Dr. J. R. Gorrell.**



Corsica in 1721. From this fact, it will be seen that the descent is French—few will forget that Corsica gave the world Napoleon: and all will remember that Corsican blood is blue with the royal, fiery fever of some heroic dynasty of France. In the search for a new home a portion of the strain made Ireland a stopping place, and others went on to Scotland. But concerning the original source there can be little doubt. On the other hand the Glasses were purely Scotch, and the Tam



*Residence of M. E. Hursh.*

O Shanter hotel, rendered famous by the poet Burns, has been owned by them for more than two hundred years. And this Scottish family proudly traces its ancestral relationship to Sir William Wallace—it is definitely known that one of the race, Andrew by name, shared the perils of his kinsman, the famous Scottish Chief.

The subject of this sketch, with years of blue blood behind him, according to the laws of heredity, must have done something in a life thus ballasted, as it were, by the achievements of a mighty past. Briefly, he moved with his parents to Wells Co., Ind., in the fall of 1845. Received his education in Fort Wayne, and in the spring of 1856, began the study of medicine with Dr. J. R. McCleary in Bluffton. In the spring of 1859, he graduated from the University of Buffalo, and on the 9th day of August, 1859, began the practice of medicine in Newville, DeKalb county, Indiana. Until the fall of 1862, he remained in active practice, at which time, responding to duty's call, he entered the army as an assistant surgeon, and served in that capacity and as surgeon until the close of the war. In the fall of 1865, he located in Newton, Iowa, where he has remained, and where the honors and life-trophies have been showered upon him.

In the fall of 1861, Dr. Gorrell was united in marriage to Francis E. Hendricks, eldest daughter of the world-famous

mathematician, Dr. Joel E. Hendricks (a cousin of Thomas A. Hendricks of Indiana).

In 1892, Dr. Gorrell, was sent as a delegate from the 6th congressional district to the National Republican Convention at Minneapolis; and at that time was a partisan of Blaine. He was elected senator in the 29th senatorial district in the fall of 1893 by the republicans. Not favoring the St. Louis platform he became a supporter of Bryan in 1896, and was re-elected to the Senate in 1897 by the combined free silver element in his district, overcoming the republican majority of 446 in 1896.

Besides political and professional strong-points, Dr. Gorrell is a keen, forcible, argumentative writer of no small ability. As the author of "Sins Absolved", a romance, he has given the reading world something to think about.

It is a pleasure for us at this point to pay tribute to the literary excellence of Dr. Gorrell's writings. Under other circumstances, and in other environments, this man of medicine, this master of statescraft, would have become a litterateur of great distinction; even as he now stands, rich, powerful, learned, philanthropic, it is beyond our humble station to properly enumerate and dignify the excellencies of his well-earned glory, or recount further his perfect right to that illustriousness which is his own.



### Jas. H. Keefer.

Jas. H. Keefer, editor and proprietor of the *OSSIAN WEEKLY NEWS*, is a type of progressive manhood. He has succeeded in a business which from its earliest beginning appeared hopeless to those who knew of the efforts of early newspaper men in Ossian. He has literally forced recognition from every side, and from the very jaws of failure drawn out the philosopher's stone—success.

Mr. Keefer was born in Maysville, Allen Co., Ind., Feb. 11, 1869, of parents in whose blood predominated the Pennsylvania German strain. Essentially he is a self educated man, for in the days of his youth his environments were not especially conducive to aught but manual toil. The rudiments of an English education were secured at the Maysville common schools. Upon this foundation was built knowledge born of self-study, reading, travel and experience.

His inventive turn in youth, amounting to genius, his indomitable energy and will, made him successful in whatever he tried. A year of business spent in a printing office taught him the ethics of his business, though he did not at once embark as a newspaper man—indeed he had reckoned upon another trade entirely. At the age of 20, he entered into the wholesale meat business, buying and butchering at Maysville and selling in Fort Wayne. At this time Mr. Keefer had the reputation of owning the finest "outfit" in the wholesaling business. He was a practical butcher, par excellence, in everything of that nature he tried.

Swift & Co. entered the market in 1885, extensively, thus killing the small wholesalers. With his usual foresight and energy, Mr. Keefer at once turned his genius into newspaper lines. How well he succeeded is told at some

length in our article "The Ossian News".

If great mechanical ability, trained mind, exceptional inventive skill, energy and determination count for anything, Mr. Keefer is certainly a wonderful man with a great future before him.



### David Craig.

One of our most respected pioneer citizens is David Craig, mention of whom is made in the leading chapter of this volume.

Mr. Craig was born in London, Canada, in the year 1834. He came of good Scotch stock—that nationality that has proven itself on a thousand battle fields. Coming of such a race, it is not to be wondered at that Mr. Craig possesses the qualities which go to make up good citizenship.

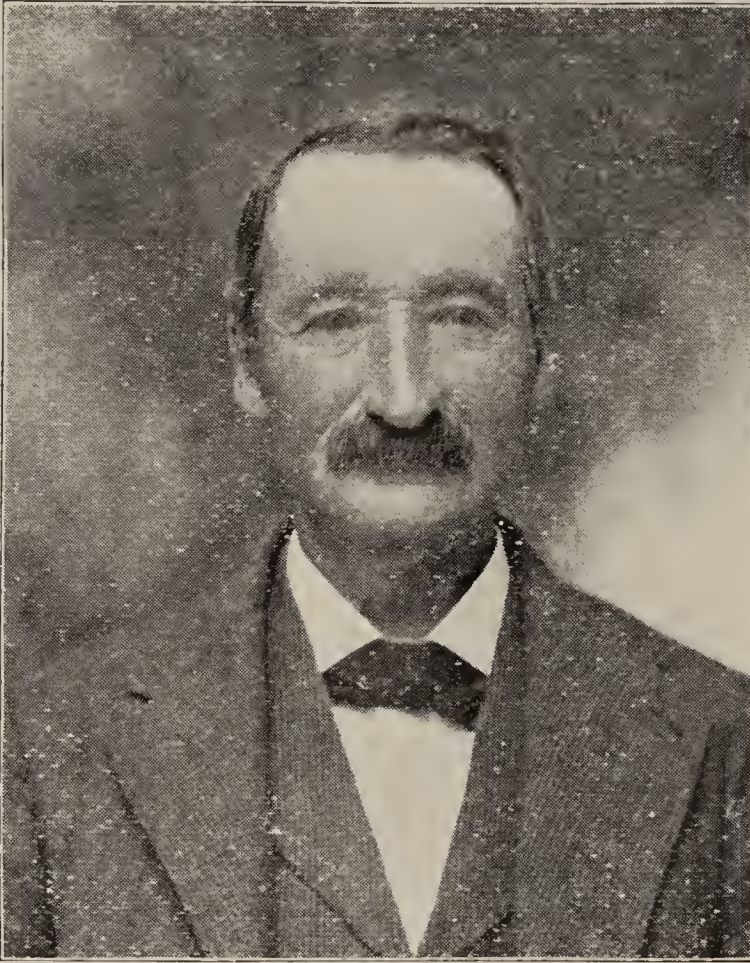
In 1846, his father, William Craig, removed to Jefferson Township and began the arduous task of making a living in a semi-wild country. Here young David had ample opportunity to work up his muscle on the stumpy underbrush. The "old deestrick" school experience was undergone by David. Later he attended



*Residence of F. M. Thurber.*

an educational institution at Fort Wayne. practically, however, Mr. Craig is a self-made man who has toiled hard for all he has acquired.





**David Craig.**

The early influences and environments of Mr. Craig's life determined him to become a farmer. The firmness with which he met the adversities of life, and the pluck which enabled him to succeed, are elements of character worthy of emulation.

For some years Mr. Craig has lived a retired life, though to the boys he is simply "Pappy", who is as young in heart as he was half a century ago—the true type of the man who never grows old.

Socially, he is an active member of the B. & W. Club—a hale fellow well met.

In the death of his wife and daughter a few years ago he met chastening influences that conspired to make his life a truly noble and beautiful one.

Mr. Craig has been a faithful conservative, patriotic citizen, and his life can only have for its ending and reward, the respect and esteem of the coming generation who tenderly regard him.



**Elmer E. Derr.**

Elmer E. Derr, late of Ossian, now a prosperous liveryman of Rochester, Ind., was born in 1866, in Wabash, Ind.

His parents removed to Ossian 1868, and the boy began his education in our schools, where he successfully completed the advanced courses. From the earliest times,

Mr. Derr made good progress, and deserves honorable mention for attained scholarship. The "bread question" was solved by many a hard summer's work upon the factory just at the time when factory work was at its flood tide in this place. In the winters, Mr. Derr taught school, and otherwise varied the arduous labor at the "stave-yards".

In 1885, Mr. Derr purchased his tonsorial parlor, and labored to make himself the most proficient barber who had ever been in the town—this he succeeded in doing. Being an extremely public-spirited man, he interested himself, Feb. 1897, in the State Militia; was instrumental in securing the right to raise a company, and was unanimously chosen captain of the sixty-five men of "Co. F". April 26, 1898, he was called out with the company, and May 12, was mustered into the U. S. service. For one year with his company, he saw service, was ordered to Cuba for a few months, and just one year from the day he entered the army, was mustered out.

Just recently, Mr. Derr purchased a livery and feed stable in Rochester, where he is making his home.

Mr. Derr's social success deserves mention. As a charter member of the K. of P. order, he has secured many distinctions, and served in all the chiefest offices. A Mason since 1896, he has been honored many times by that order. Mr. Derr is also a charter member of the Maccabee lodge, and an attendant upon the Eastern Star chapter. A popular man, Mr. Derr's emolument is the respect of his fellows.



**A. B. Davis.**

Any one who has ever been inside the "New Drug Store", as it is called, need not read this article to know that the pharmacy is in every respect, beyond the sort usually found in places the size of Ossian. It is a pleasure to trade with A. B. Davis, who is the proprietor, because things are always so neat and well kept, and the pharmacist himself a man who will take every pains to satisfy customers, and carefully fill whatever orders may be entrusted to his care.



The man who is at the head of the business, was born in 1855, near Ossian, and is the son of Lewis and Sarah Ann Davis. Reared a farmer, educated in the Ossian schools, he is a well known and highly respected citizen.

In 1885, he went into the drug business. He served as a deputy postmaster during a part of President Cleveland's administration, and was appointed postmaster under President Harrison's term of office, serving the four years with credit. Again under the second administration of President Cleveland, he served four years as deputy postmaster under W. A. Woodward.

Being dissatisfied with his old quarters in the Caston building, in 1897, Mr. Davis erected the fine place of business he now occupies. This building, as we have said, is a pattern of neatness in every way, and the manner in which business is carried on, reflects honor upon the proprietor.



*Residence of Harry Bunn.*

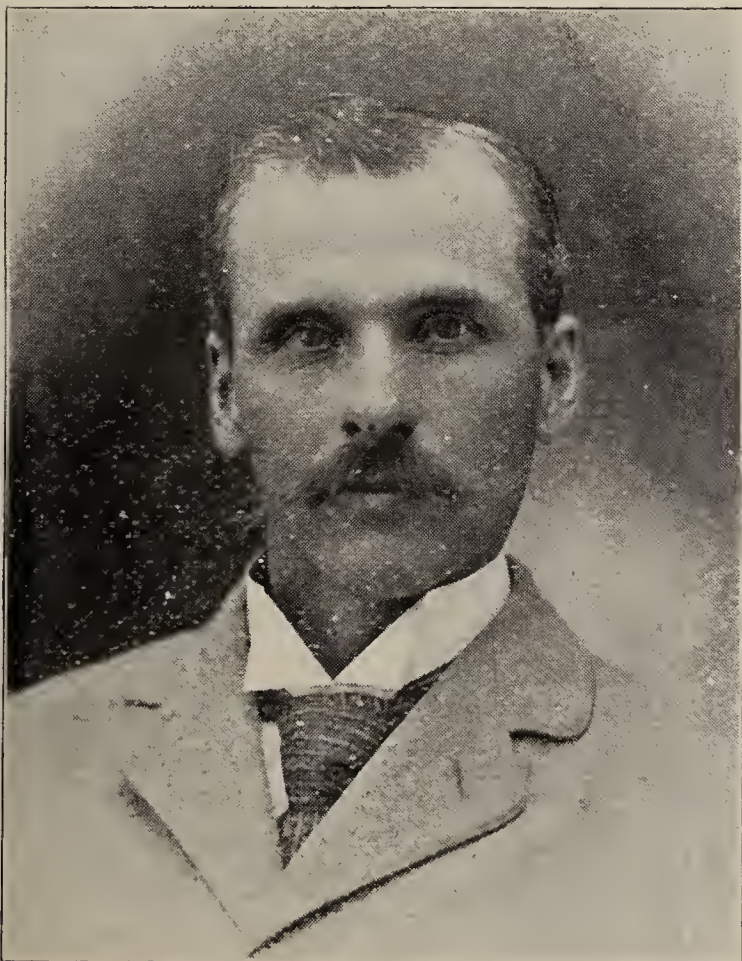
The large drug patronage which Mr. Davis annually cares for, seems exceedingly well satisfied with all his methods. The "New Drug Store" will always be a popular pharmacy—and it deserves the honor.



### **Frank M. Thurber.**

The hardware store has passed through several hands and undergone many vicissitudes since its establishment in Ossian. The fact that its trade has grown and has required the building of an addition, is sufficient proof of its stability and usefulness in the business world of our little city. Probably there is not a better point for the location of such a business. A realization of this fact, no doubt, caused our friend and fellow citizen, Mr. F. M. Thurber, to purchase the establishment early last year and turn his attention from farming and dairy pursuits, toward the supplying of those implements and necessities in which he deals.

Mr. Thurber was born in 1857, in Pleasant township, Allen Co., Ind. His parents were hardworking persons of established character, and as a youth Mr. Thurber got considerable experience in the theory and practice of agricultural pursuits. He was educated in the Allen County schools and early took up the bread winning problem. Farming seemed



**F. M. Thurber.**



to be a pleasant vocation for a time, though Mr. Thurber spent some years as a popular justice of the peace, and in other official capacities won, the esteem of those with whom he had to deal, as he was considered to be fair-minded and just in all his transactions with men.

Mr. Thurber until recently, was engaged in experiments along dairy lines, having purchased a small cream-separator and otherwise prepared himself to furnish a quality of butter unsurpassed in excellence by even the Ossian Creamery. Upon his decision in January 1899, to go into his present business he left the farm and turned his attention to other matters and may now be found at any time at the old Rex & Robert's "stand". Mr. Thurber is a prosperous and popular member of our society.



### Frank M. Beaty.

Frank M. Beaty was born in August, 1875, in Ossian, son of Wm. R. and Angeline Beaty, and is one of the youngest of the prosperous business fraternity of our little city. Mr. Beaty received his education in the city schools and at Valparaiso, Indiana, where he took a commercial course, graduating with honors. Upon the completion of his college



Frank M. Beaty.

work in 1893, he accepted a position in Roe Brothers' store as clerk and for three years faithfully fulfilled the duties devolving upon him.

In the fall of 1899, Mr. Beaty, purchased E. E. Derr's tonsorial parlors and began business for himself. With his present neatly equipped shop, there is no reason why he should not succeed eminently well. The establishment which he owns makes him proprietor of a fine large business room, three barber chairs, accompanying mirrors and all that go to make up a first class barber shop.

Mr. Beaty has won the merited respect of many friends, and it is felt that the new work will suit him admirably.

As a member of society, Mr. Beaty is a most popular ornament. Having joined the F. & A. M. in 1897, that order has dignified him with the office of Senior Warden. He is also a member of the K. O. T. M. and Eastern Star orders.

Mr. Beaty, is a steady conservative citizen, the sort of a young man of whom we are all glad to say a good word, and whom we are pleased to watch grow up to positions of honor and success.



### John H. Hoover.

No man in Ossian has been more faithful in his attempt to satisfy the desires of his many patrons than has the subject of this sketch, John H. Hoover, proprietor of the oldest established drug store in town. Born in 1853, educated in the common schools, early taught the meaning of life's severest effort and gravest toil, Mr. Hoover has proven himself to be one of our most faithful, conservative, business men. As the owner of his present flourishing pharmacy, the city is to be congratulated that it possesses such a superior establishment.

Confronted in youth by more than the average obstacles, Mr. Hoover overcame them one by one. In his early manhood he labored in the west, "roughing it" in the completest sense of the word. For a time a driver of a government wagon he knew what it was to respond to the severe demands of a nation that expects each man to do his best no matter what the

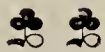


requirement.

After his return to the east, the subject of this sketch, worked for a time at manual labor on the railroad. Then the opportunity offering itself, he went into W. B. Miller's Drug Store. This work he found most congenial. In 1878, he went into the business, purchasing a half partnership with the Eastman & Reed firm. Selling three years later he bought in with Anderson Morton, and a year later, purchased Morton's entire interest. In 1883, Mr. Hoover

built and occupied the brick now used by Roe Bros., merchants, and changing his location again he built in 1892 his present store, and since that time has been successfully ministering to the desires of a large patronage.

The average volume of business done by Mr. Hoover is large enough to affirm the fact that he is one of our leading, most popular retailers. Always keeping a large stock of best materials on hands, people have come to know where to go to receive prompt attention, and careful reliable service.



### David Stine.

David Stine, a man who has been identified with every good, local interest since he became one of our prominent citizens, was born in Carrol Co., Ohio, September 24, 1832. His parents were of German descent, his father of whom he learned the trade was a blacksmith. When but 12 years of age, he began the work which he has followed successfully these many years. When very young, Mr. Stine received the usual school advantages accorded to the worker of the old days. In a little school-house near Killgore, Ohio, he learned the necessary rudiments taught to the sons of the past generation. The years that followed were spent at honest efforts at his chosen trade.



*Residence of Dr. J. I. Metts.*

In 1862 Mr. Stine responded patriotically to the call of his country and enlisted with Co. I. 40th Ohio Vol. Inf. He served to the end of the war, and in 1866, he set out with his family for Indiana. Settling near Zanesville, he followed his trade, removing to Ossian finally and establishing his present business in 1873. Since the beginning of his labors in Ossian he has been one of the strong, well-be-loved men of church and village.

For fifty years, Mr. Stine, and in later years, assisted by his son, Edward, have manufactured double-shovel steel plows, and to them belong the idea of the steel single-shovel plow with a cutter. The record of the sales of these useful implements is a large one, and Mr. Stine may be accounted a successful man in the usual sense of the term.

It is a difficult matter for a biographer to touch upon the well-known virtues of a good man, without falling into a fulsome recount, colored with flattery and praise. In this case, it will be sufficient to say that every reader of this edition who knows the saying, "unto the true there is truth: unto the good there is goodness, peace, prosperity and length of days", will understand in what sense to apply it to the man of whose life it has been our privilege to write these words, and in this cursory manner sketch a career so peculiarly that of a good man.





RANSOM ALLEN, QUARTERMASTER.



G.M. MILLS,  
2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUTENANT



CO. F. 160<sup>TH</sup> IND. VOL. INDEPENDENCE PARK, IN.  
NOV 18



F.E. DERR, CAPTAIN.



LYDD WILSON  
1<sup>ST</sup> LIEUTENANT



### J. G. Gorrell.

J. G. Gorrell, Esquire, was born in Beaver Co., Pa., Sept. 28, 1828. So well known are the antecedents of his family—the early ancestry being French, and emigrating from Corsica 1721—that detailed mention here is superfluous. His parents Joseph and Esther (Glass) Gorrell, were early Jefferson township settlers, and to them and similar pioneers, is due much of the stable foundation on which was built the civilization and culture of the present.

Mr. Gorrell was educated in Trumbull Co., O. For many years after coming to this county, he taught school. His first school was at Bethel, taught in 1849. His influence upon the children of that generation in educational matters was for the best.

Mr. Gorrell's life has been an eventful one. For many years he was a writer of insurance. In 1894, he was elected Justice of the Peace in this township, and has filled the office creditably, which office together with notary work and the writing of insurance keeps his time fully occupied.



### James Swaim.

Jefferson township has had a number of good school trustees—men who have done something to elevate the general standard, or to improve the conditions of the township buildings; but she has had no trustee who will be remembered for a longer space of time than the present one, Mr James Swaim. It was under the administration of this gentleman that the fine large brick addition to the Ossian school building was erected and other improvements made, which place Jefferson township and her schools in the lead. Also since his election and occupancy of office, it is a matter of remark that no trustee has been held in higher esteem by the teachers who are in his employ.



### *Residence of James Swaim.*

Mr. Swaim was born in November, 1845, in Pemberton, New Jersey, son of Col. Wm. and Hannah Swaim, who are remembered with respect by all the older citizens. Mr. Swaim was educated in the Jefferson township schools, his parents having removed from New Jersey and settled in the new country.

In October 1861, when Mr. Swaim was but a lad of 16, he went to the war, attached himself to Co. A., 34th Ind. Vol., Inf., and served through the entire rebellion, being mustered out of service Feb. 4th, 1866. This was a record of which any man might be proud, still of the son of so brave a father as Colonel William Swaim, much would naturally be expected,

After his return from the war, Mr. Swaim began farming which he has made his regular pursuit ever since. In 1884, he became justice of the peace and served with honor to himself and partisans for 8 years. In April, 1898, he was appointed trustee of the Jefferson township schools, and the manner in which he has fulfilled his duties in that line of service, leaves nothing to be desired.

Mr. Swaim also stands high in social and fraternal circles. Since 1871, he has been an active member of the F. & A. M. order, and has filled the highest offices in the lodge. He is a member of the Eastern Star as well; and a highly respected upholder of all true fraternal teachings.



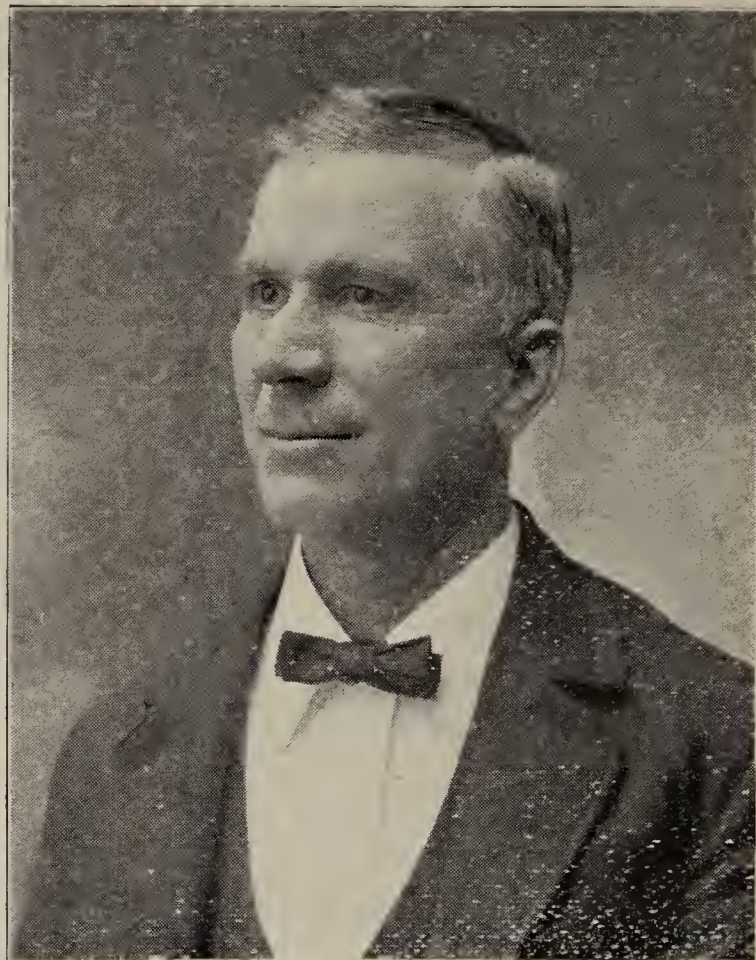
The NEWS takes the liberty of paying a compliment especially to Mr. Swaim's executive ability, and careful, systematic manner of conducting the township's business—as trustee he has no superior.



### Beaty & Doan.

The names of W. R. Beaty and T. A. Doan have been connected for so many years with the lumber business that no introduction of themselves or work to the appreciative public can do more than augment the high esteem in which they are held.

Mr. W. R. Beaty, the senior member of the firm, was born in Holmes Co., Ohio, in 1842. His parents removed to Wells Co., in 1845, and he received in this county his education. Mr. Beaty's name has been associated with business interests in Ossian almost all his life. He was a veteran in the civil war: after his return from service he went into the lumbering business associating himself with the Koons & Co., saw and planing mills. A few years later Mr. Beaty's name became the leading one on the firm books, and in 1875, Mr. T. A. Doan became associated with the company. Mr. Doan's careful business-like



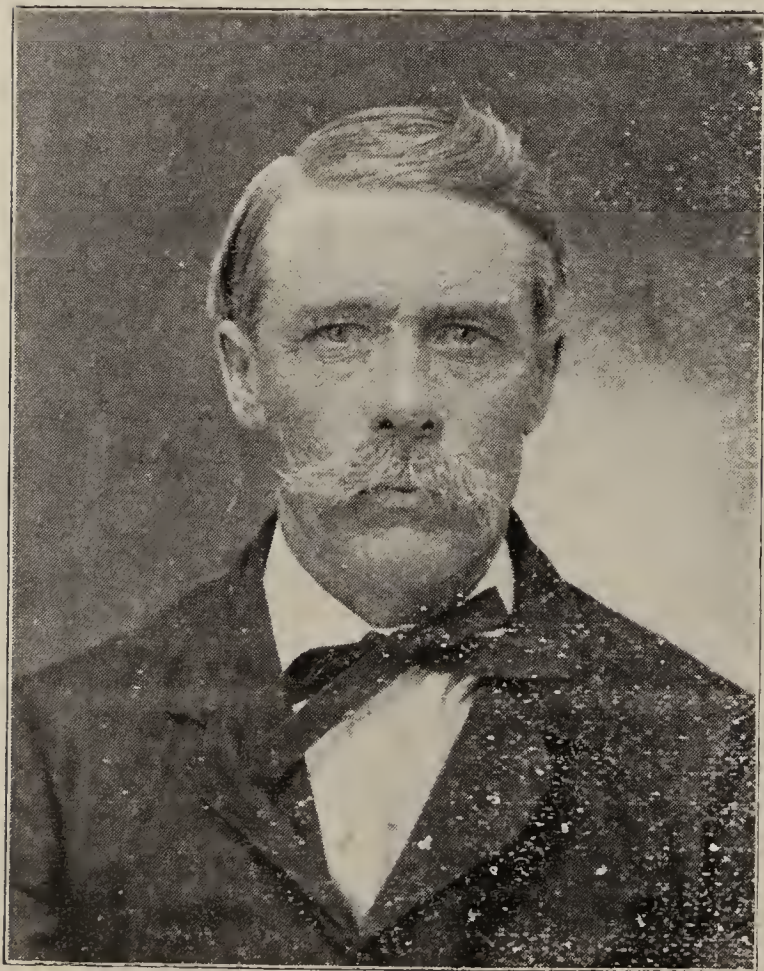
*Thos. A. Doan.*

qualities soon made him a member of the firm, which changed its name lastly to that of Beaty & Doan and is now so known. The business has gradually increased by reason of the steady principles of these gentlemen. In 1878, pine lumber and shingles were first handled by the firm. The brickyard became a part of the company's property in 1895, and in 1899, as elsewhere stated, a large grain elevator was built by the enterprising gentlemen.

Mr. T. A. Doan, the junior member of the firm, was born in 1845, at Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England, son of John and Elizabeth (Foundling) Doan. He came to America in 1870, and worked at various places for five years. He was by trade a miller, but in 1875, he became employed by the Koons & Co., saw and planing mills. His history from that time on is well known.

William M. Doan son of the partner in this firm, is a young man of more than average business ability, and has recently taken charge of the office work. He is a courteous, agreeable gentleman, and adds confidence and strength to the firm in the position he occupies.

These enterprising gentlemen have won the reputation of having one of the best equipped businesses in town. They have



*Wm. R. Beaty.*



in a sense been a God-send to the city because of the steady work they have furnished a number of hands. The material they supply is also strictly first class as all builders acknowledge and affirm. The gentlemen are among the most prosperous citizens in town.



### E. A. Vail.

E. A. Vail, whose name has become prominent in its connection with factories and factory interests in Ossian and Cardwell, Mo., was born in Crawford Co., Ohio, in 1850, a son of Thomas and Martha (Shepherd) Vail. In 1857 the family moved to Indiana and the father worked at various kinds of labor, especially at his trade which was that of a cooper.

In 1869, the father died and the subject of this sketch, the oldest son at home, took up the cares of the family, and right faithfully fulfilled the trust which devolved upon him.

For 10 years Mr. Vail has been connected with the factory business. For 6 years he was at the head of the Ossian factory. When it was removed from this place he became superintendent of the Decatur Egg Case Co., of Cardwell, Mo.

Mr. Vail will always be remembered by



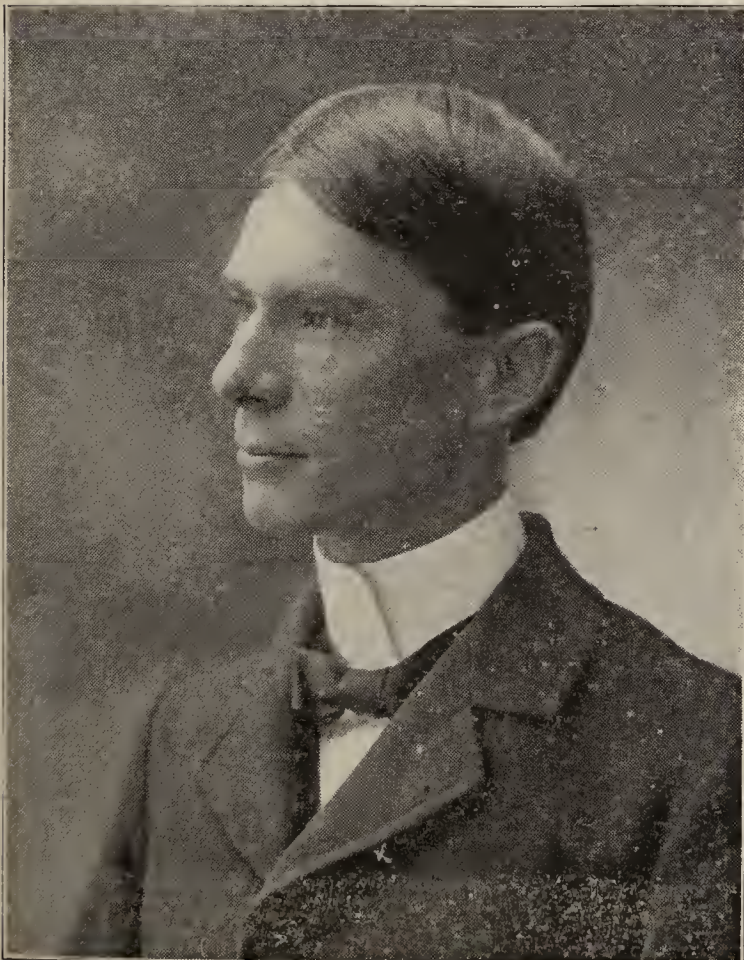
E. A. Vail.

the people of this community. He was a member of several societies—a Mason, a K. of P., and I. O. O. F., and a O. E. S., he was popular and in high eminence with all orders and classes.



### Robison & Robison.

Good dentists are always scarce. There are dentists and *dentists*. Robison & Robison are *dentists* in the fullest sense of the word. We say without hesitancy and most sincerely (not being paid to make such remarks) that P. L. and H. E. Robison are the best dentists in the county. It is an interesting fact, and exceedingly fortunate for our city that they have a branch office at this place, and do a large business here. P. L. Robison was born in 1853, in Westmoreland county, Pa., son of William W. and Sophia (Eicher) Robison, of German descent. His father being a minister, his youth was spent in various places in Ind. He received his education at Springfield Academy. In 1873, he engaged in the grocery business at Bluffton, Ind., with J. H. C. Smith which he followed only a short time. Desiring to become master of a profession in which there was room for advancement, he studied dentistry at Kenton, Ohio. He established himself in



Wm. M. Doan.



his profession in Bluffton, March 29th 1874, and by honest work and faithful service, he won abundant success. April 10th, 1898, Mr. Robison associated his son's name with the firm name, and established a branch office at Ossian, which is of incalculable benefit to the town as it brings in many people to our city to trade who would otherwise go elsewhere.

H. E. Robison, the junior member of the firm, was born in Bluffton, in 1877, and received his education at the Bluffton High School, Franklin College, Ohio College of Dental Surgery, and at the dental department of the Northwestern University.

Since beginning his practice Mr. Robison has had the very best of success, and since his partnership with P. L. Robison, the firm has been able to present the best equipped dental office in Wells county.

Both father and son are perfect gentlemen, and have come to success in their profession because they have served their patrons honestly.



### William Craig.

William Craig, landlord of the old thoroughly established Craig House, was born in Johnstone, Renfrewshire, near Glasgow, Scotland, February 11, 1824, son of William and Jennette (Robinson) Craig, who came to America in 1828, and settled at Troy N. Y., where they remained four years before removing to London, Ontario, in 1832.

July 12, 1838, the Craigs made a permanent location in this township, where the parents remained until death. The farm upon which the Craig family settled is the old Warren Mills place. The father was the first naturalized citizen of Jefferson township, and one of the best known, most prominent men—his death occurred in 1863, and his wife survived him but eight years.

Mr. Wm. Craig, our subject, married Margaret, daughter of Robert and Mary A. (Stout) McConnell, native of New Jersey, in which state Mrs. Craig was born Oct. 4, 1827. Their marriage occurred April 11, at the home of the bride's parents, in Jefferson township.

The young couple began their domestic



*William Craig.*

life upon a farm, and for many years followed that occupation. Mr. Craig has also been a merchant, but he is principally known as landlord of the ever popular, widely known Craig House—Ossian's most frequented inn. His house has a reputation among traveling men for many miles; even unto strange cities. This well-deserved popularity arises from the particular and careful attention Mr. and Mrs. Craig give their guests.

Mr. Craig's ancestry was Scotch of the "deepest color", Robert Burns, the great poet, was a near neighbor of Mr. Craig's grandparents, and Mr. Craig himself was born in the same region, and was familiar with the country which furnished the poet with settings for his ever-living verses.



### Drs. J. I. and Fred Metts.

It is said that the family physician comes nearer to the inner life of his fellow men than any other being on earth, unless it be the physician of the soul. The senior subject of this brief sketch, Dr. J. I. Metts, is endeared to hundreds of families in this vicinity. His remarkable success at the beginning of his career firmly established him in the affections of his patrons.

Dr. J. I. Metts was born in Licking Co.,



Ohio, June 15, 1832, son of James W. and Mirinda (Sutton) Metts. September 10, 1837, the family came to this county and settled near the place where Murray is now located. After an early life in which farm work was mingled with school teaching, Dr. Metts attended Fort Wayne College—this was in the year 1852. Under the tutelage of Dr. Adam Davison, he began the study of medicine, and attended the medical colleges at Louisville and Cincinnati. He matriculated at Miami College in 1854-55. Later in life, because of the remarkable ability shown in treatment of thousands of cases, and because true merit began to be recognized in distant cities, the Fort Wayne Medical College bestowed upon him an honorary degree. Dr. Metts has been a successful man—as a physician first always; a good citizen, prosperous, and honored by society; as the school trustee who first introduced the later system of grading, and against bitter opposition proved that it was best for the schools; and as a man courteous, gentlemanly, indefatigable in discharge of duty.

Dr. Fred A. Metts, the junior member of the firm, son of Dr. J. I., became associated with the present practice in 1899, and is one of the most brilliant Esculapians in the county. Although a young man he is “winning his spurs” and bringing himself to recognition by the skillful operations he is performing. In much of his work it can be easily seen that the mantle of genius and judgment so present in the father has fallen upon the son.

Dr. F. A., was born in 1877, in Ossian. He received his education first at the Ossian High School, then at DePauw University, and at the Fort Wayne College of Medicine, at which latter place he took his degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1898. July 7, 1898, he enlisted in the regular army and was assigned to 1st Army Corps. He left the United States July 21, 1898, for Ponce, Porto Rico. August 1st, he landed and was attached to the provisional squadron cavalry. The army's course is well remembered by our readers—first moving to Arroyo, then forward to Guayana, Aug., 5th. The fierce struggle at Las Marias, Aug. 13th, is still in the minds of the readers of the Spanish-American War.

After seven months of faithful service, the end of the war being at hand, Dr. Metts was honorably discharged. That a life of success avails this young physician of promise no one can doubt. Truly Ossian is well blessed with good physicians.



### Harry Bunn.

Not to know Harry Bunn is not to be acquainted with the jolliest man in town. This characteristic fits Mr. Bunn for his work and makes him a favorite wherever he goes.

Mr. Bunn was born in 1858, two miles east of Ossian, the son of Jacob and Sarah Bunn, early settlers. Educated in the common branches, he was early turned out to make his own way in the world. Thanks to the smooth tongue and happy-go-lucky nature he succeeded.

In 1880, Mr. Bunn, established his present business of professional auctioneer, and gradually, he being very popular, his territory extended until it now covers an area represented by a radius of 15 miles: and in a number of instances reaches out to sales 25 miles distant. On an average, Mr. Bunn, has charge of 50 sales a year, some of them very large ones.

In 1892, Mr. Bunn, began farming on a



Harry Bunn.



small scale, turning his attention chiefly to poultry raising and bee culture. In these lines he has prospered very well, though in the winter of 1898, he lost all but two hives of bees.

As a public spirited man, Mr. Bunn deserves special mention. No one can quite manage a street fair or fourth of July celebration as well as he: no one is quite such a favorite with the boys as he: no one can tell a funnier story or laugh longer and louder than this same good natured citizen of Ossian. It would be a hard matter to find any one in town held in closer esteem by the entire people that he so faithfully serves in whatever capacity presents, than this same Harry Bunn.



### Edwin Davis.

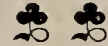
Foremost among our business men is Edwin Davis, our capable, energetic and practical, restaurateur, and caterer. He has always been recognized as keeping a neat presentable place of business, and his establishment has always been well patronized by the leading people of this city.

Mr. Davis was born in 1866, son of Lewis and Sarah Ann Davis, who were, if you will remember, numbered among the old settlers, by the memories of our fathers. Mr. Davis was educated in the common schools, and early struck out to make a living for himself. Indeed at the age of 13, he began "to do for himself". He learned the barber trade and worked at it for about six years, during which time he was engaged in the business in Markle, Fort Wayne, Chicago, and in Kentucky.

In 1890, he began the restaurant business in Ossian with but \$40.00 capital. He did not remain at this work long, but soon went to Gas City to resume the tonsorial work. In the fall of 1893, he moved to Markle. In 1894, he went to

Fort Wayne to run a grocery, returning finally to Ossian in 1895, where he established his present permanent business.

Mr. Davis is quite a fraternity man. He is a charter member of the K. of P. order and also of the Rathbone lodge. In these fraternities he has held leading offices. As a man he is quite gentlemanly and unobtrusive, attending strictly to business—an addition to the element of studious, persevering gentlemen.



### Lumley F. Wilson.

Probably no business man in the town of Ossian has met more reverses and in the end surmounted them more triumphantly than Mr. L. F. Wilson. He now is the owner of one of the best equipped livery and feed stables in the surrounding country. His barn is large and commodious, his service is the best that can be procured his horses are carefully chosen and well kept. A great number of citizens are proud to point to his establishment and say that it is a permanent labor feature of Ossian.

Mr. Wilson was born November 26, 1846, in Knox Co., Ohio, a son of Wm. P. and Rebecca (Beach) Wilson. In 1854, the family moved to Wells county and began life in this region at Zanesville. In May, 1864, he enlisted in Co., D. 137 Ind., Vol.,



*L. F. Wilson's Livery Stable.*



Inf., and was in service until November of the same year. In 1865, Mr. Wilson hired to James Sewell as clerk in his dry-goods store. He worked for one year at that business. Later he became a partner with the Hatfield firm, and was so connected for seven years, at the end of which time he sold out, desiring to enter other avenues of labor. In 1875 he bought the grist mill. Here fortune began to deal heavily with him, for twice did he burn out and twice did he rebuild the mill. This is a sample of the man's courage. In 1885, he went into his present work. At this time, owing to the losses by fire, Mr. Wilson was involved to the extent of \$1900, but with indomitable energy he came to the front and in a few years paid off his debt, built the beautiful residence where he now resides and enlarged his buildings. For the past 2 years he has been connected with the Warren livery and feed stable as partner with his son, James Wilson.

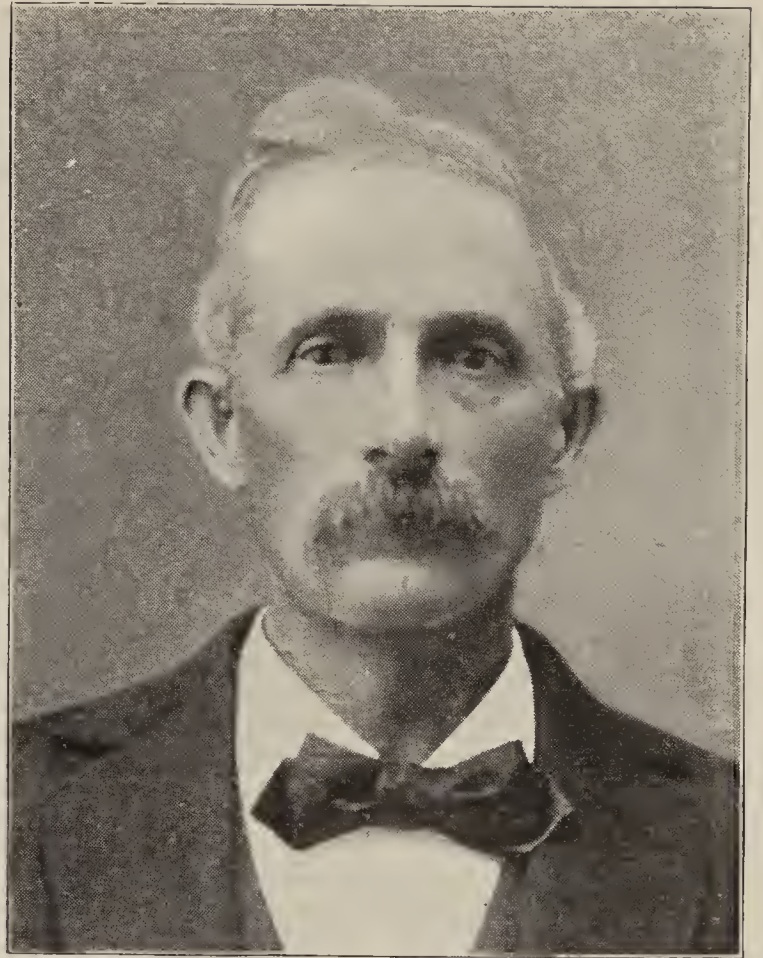
Mr. Wilson in spite of many cares, is a well known man in society and fraternity circles. He has been a mason for 5 years, and is a charter member of the I. O. O. F. and K. O. T. M. orders.



### Rex & Hendry.

Rex & Hendry are makers of tile, and a visit to their manufactory over in West Ossian will convince any one that they do a large volume of work, furnishing regular employment to a number of men.

John Rex, senior member of the firm was born in 1828, in Stark Co., Ohio, a son of parents of German descent. He went to school in Clark and Seneca counties. He was raised a farmer and at 22 years of age, came to Wells county and settled upon an 80-acre farm of his own. At this time Jefferson township was all woods, peopled with the denizens of an almost trackless forest. Mr. Rex went to work and patiently cleared his land. It is enough to say that he prospered, since he has owned at times, over 300 acres of land. In 1889, he moved to Ossian and bought the grist mill, and in 1895 he sold a half interest to M. E. Hursh. Twice he has been identified with the hardware hardware store—once with A. S. Elzey,



*L. F. Wilson.*

and once with W. Z. Roberts. In 1894 he became interested in the tile mill, and in the spring of 1899, he associated Frank Hendry with his business.

Frank Hendry, junior member of the firm, was born in 1873, in Allen Co., Indiana, son of Lonson and Lucinda Hendry, parents of German descent. He went to school in Jefferson township, and the greater part of his life was spent upon the farm. In 1899 he purchased a half interest in the tile manufactory and is now engaged in furnishing the public with the very best tile procurable, at very low prices.

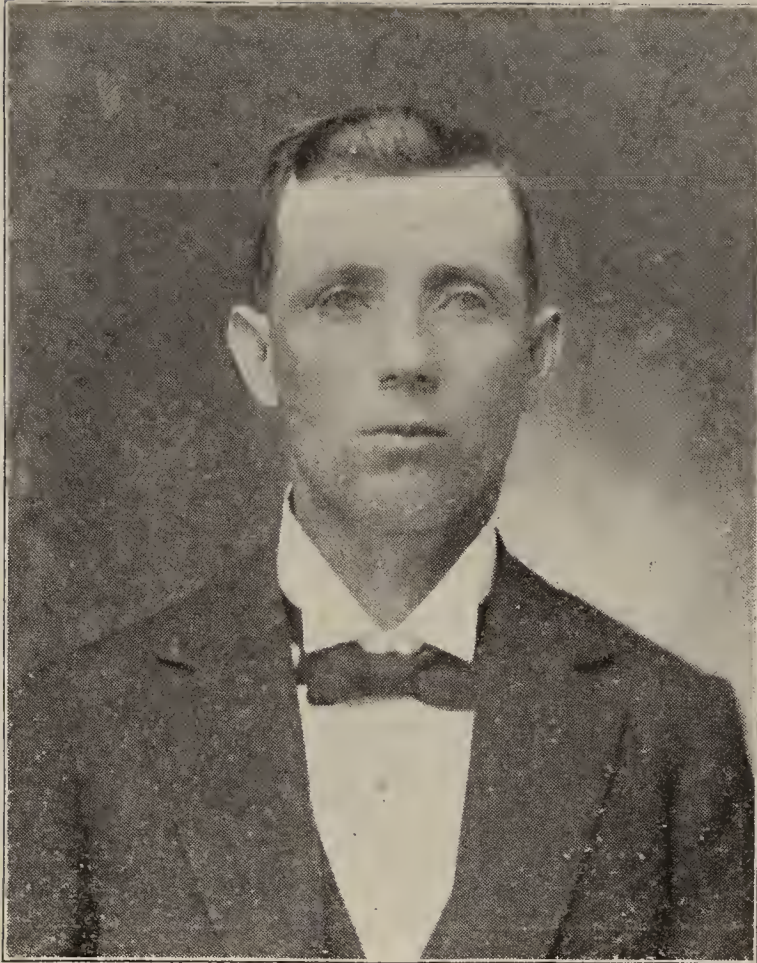
The business is a good and prosperous one. The mill is known all over the county, and these gentlemen are doing their share towards furnishing the "drainage tubes" for the surrounding country.



### Charles E. Swaim.

A description of the furniture store, and the history of its usefulness in Ossian, is absolutely necessary to a work of this importance, yet the present owner has altered and improved the business until nothing of the former traces remain but the last newly erected building. In stock, style of work, methods of dealing, Charles Swaim has made a decided improvement upon his





**Charles E. Swaim.**

predecessors who were content to allow the establishment to take care of itself for the most part.

Mr. Swaim the present owner, was born in August, 1862, in Wells Co., Ind. His ancestors were of English and Sweedish origin; and his parents old Wells Co., settlers, favorably known as people of the best stock, have resided in this vicinity for forty years.

Mr. Swaim was of a somewhat nomadic temperament, and after his school days in Ossian and a few years on his father's farm, he set off for Texas. After spending a couple of years in the south he determined to brave the dangers and cold of Michigan lumber camps, and accordingly spent six years "roughing it". The experience gained in dealing with men in those places have been of wide service to the gentleman; also the severity of the school has been valuable in quickening perceptions of business advantage.

In 1895, Mr. Swaim became owner of the furniture store in this city. He at once set about increasing the usefulness of its various departments, adding from time to time, such innovations as seemed good. He has recently increased his stock and his facilities for repairing and picture framing. Occasionally he exhibits in his windows, paintings by local celebri-

ties, and inside the building one can usually find pictures of all degrees of excellence.

Mr. Swaim is exceedingly courteous to his patronage and so far as is in his power offers the advantages of a metropolitan store. He is one of our stable business men and a good citizen.



### **Chas. H. Bell.**

Charles H. Bell was born in Ebensburg, Pa., Dec. 11, 1847, son of Alexander Graham and Jane (McCoy) Bell, of Scotch Irish descent. In the spring of 1850, the family came to Murray and took up the usual burdens of the pioneer toilers. Mr. Bell received his education first in the common schools, then in Prof. J. S. McCleary's academy at Bluffton and in the select school of Rev. Mayne. In the public schools of Wells county Mr. Bell was a teacher from 1868 until 1881, with the exception of the winters of 1877 and 1878, which years he spent in Kansas serving as deputy clerk of the district courts of Anderson county.

In September 1881, Mr. Bell, began to study pharmacy, and worked with J. H. Hoover. Having mastered the necessary knowledge, he pursued his work with Eastman & Reed, and in 1884, bought out Mrs. M. J. Reed, becoming a partner in the then largest drug store. In 1885, the firm name changed from "Eastman & Bell" to "Bell & Davis" and so continued until 1893, when Mr. Bell sold his share of the business and turned his attention to other matters.

May 6th, 1897, Mr. Bell became postmaster of the town of Ossian, and so well has he fulfilled the trusts devolving upon him, that we are safe in accounting him the best postmaster we have ever had. As an assistant postmaster under C. W. Eastman and A. B. Davis, he acquired the skill and facility for disposing of mail which makes him superior to all others in office.

Mr. Bell's life has been a busy, fruitful one; it is wholly impossible in this brief sketch to give to it the laurel-mention it deserves. Especially under the old school regime were the labors of this gentlemen



lastingly beneficial, then it was that the "chaotic systems of education", if such an appellation be permitted, gave way before the untiring attempts of himself and like minded educators, and gradually metamorphosed into the "school of the new era."



### **II. J. Baumgardner.**

Ossian has been most fortunate in her photographic department of business. Although we have no regular photographer, Mr. I. J. Baumgardner, who is probably the best artist of that description in Wells county, makes the town once a week. When it is remembered that he furnished the photographs for the half-tones of this volume, no farther praise or comment is necessary as the quality of his work is easily perceivable by all who are at all judges of art.

Mr. Baumgardner was born in Wadsworth, Ohio, in 1870, and in that city received his education. He began to study photography under Benj. Ashbaucher of Bluffton in 1895, and for several years was that gentleman's most able helper and assistant. For some time previous to his establishing of business for himself he did Mr. Ashbaucher's most difficult work, caring for almost all the Ossian patronage which was then controlled by that gentleman.

In March 1899, Mr. Baumgardner cut loose from the Bluffton firm and established a studio in the town of Markle, and a branch business in Ossian as well. Though Mr. Baumgardner makes Markle his home he does not neglect his Ossian patrons, but comes over regularly, furnishing them with the best work at the most reasonable prices. Amateur photography is quite a fad, but no amateur is able to produce equally good negatives and equally well finished photographs, when his efforts are compared with professional labor. Mr. Baumgardner is a professional and his photographs leave nothing to be desired by even the most fastidious patrons.



### **Hunter & Rupright.**

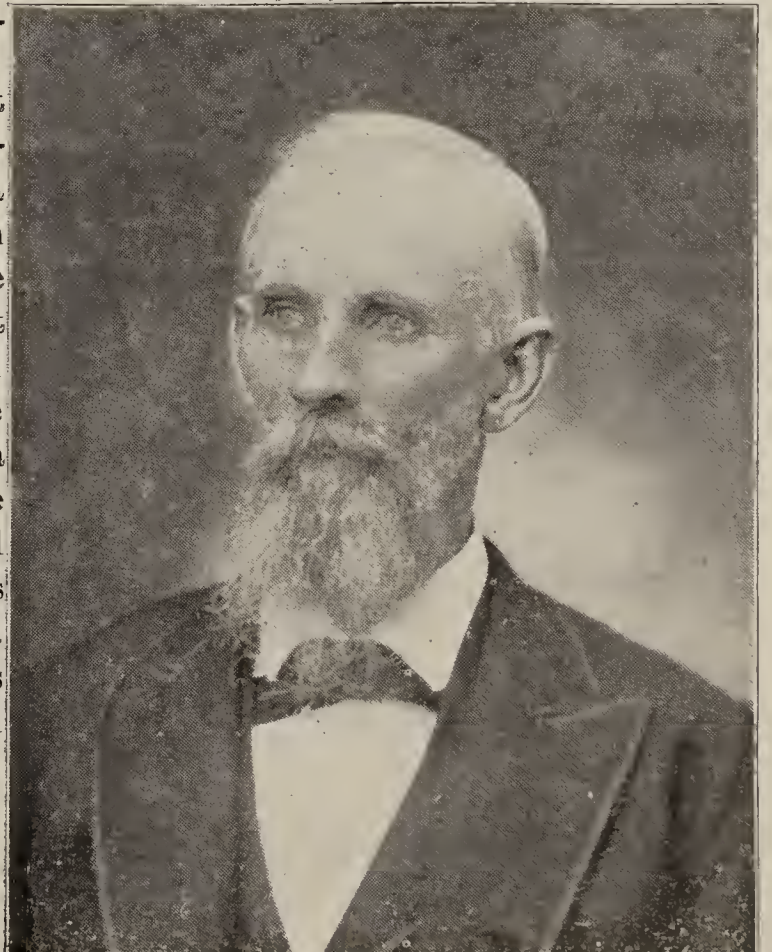
Some men have a genius for making good deals—knowing when, what, and how

to buy. The firm Hunter & Rupright has succeeded eminently well in increasing its volume of business. As buyers and sellers of live stock, these men have no superiors in the county, and they probably do as much business in their line as any similar firm.

Mr. Thornton B. Hunter was born March 15, 1836, in Beaver Co., Pa., son of Thomas and Jane (Bradshaw) Hunter, of Scotch-Irish descent. Receiving his education in the county schools, he started life for himself as a farmer. In 1862, he enlisted in Co. G., 153, Pa., Vol. Inf., and served until 1863, when he was discharged. In the spring of 1864, Mr. Hunter moved to Wells county, Indiana, and bought a farm, which he proceeded to clear up. He again enlisted in the service and was out until the end of the war. Mr. Hunter seems to be fond of army life for in the late Spanish-American war he started out with the boys and stayed in service until released.

Since his removal to this county, Mr. Hunter has bought and sold stock. He has been associated at different times with Wilson Glass, Abe Woodward and other old time buyers. In 1897, he went into partnership with W. H. Rupright, and so far the company has prospered.

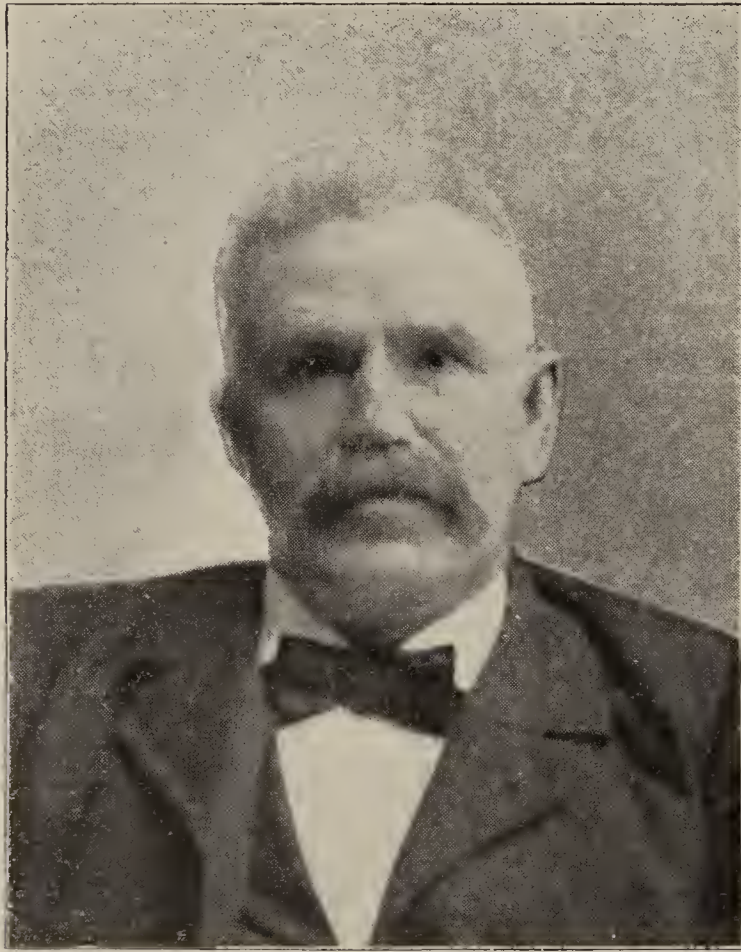
Wm. H. Rupright was born in Trumbull



**Thornton B. Hunter.**



Co., Ohio, January 19, 1849, son of John and Elizabeth (Dougherty) Rupright—the descent is German. The Rupright family has always been a pioneer family—first coming to Ohio (the old strain), then west the younger blood faring forth to Indiana. In the spring of 1852, Mr. Rupright's parents located in Adams county and by sturdy toil, they thrived and prospered. Mr. Rupright when but 16 years of age enlisted for the civil war, but was not accepted and remained at home engaged in farm work. After marriage he commenced housekeeping on a farm in Adams County. The first purchase of land was made in 1873. In 1876, Mr. Rupright be-



**Wm. H. Rupright.**

came a resident of Wells County. After settling in Jefferson township in the same year, he began to buy stock with A. Woodward & Co. In 1882, he became a county commissioner and served satisfactory several years.

As stated, in 1897, Mr. Rupright became a partner of T. B. Hunter, and the firm is now in a flourishing condition. Both men are fraternally and socially, gentlemen.



**William Stine.**

Representative men, men of integrity, good citizens, society and fraternal work-

ers, popular christian gentlemen are always pleasant subjects about which to write. We always have a reverence for men who have a fixed unquestioned position of high rank in society—it is a part of the emoluments which come to good citizens that the people universally look upon them with respect and honor.

Mr. William Stine is one of our best types of truest manhood. This reward has been reached after a life of considerable effort, and many vicissitudes. Mr. Stine was born in 1835, in Carrol county, Ohio, a son of Solomon and Margaret Stine, of German descent. He was of the sturdy class of young men who prefer manual toil to the higher and more learned avocations, therefore his education ended with the course received at the common schools in the county of his birth. Being fond of his father's trade, blacksmithing, Mr. Stine learned this art at his old home. In 1860, he moved to Martin county, and it was from this place that he enlisted in the army, becoming a member of Co. A., 17th Ind., Inf. Mr. Stine served his country for three long years, following the flag. In 1877 he moved to Wells county, Indiana, and began to work at his trade then. For thirty-nine years he has worked at his trade at different places in Ossian. He has now as assistant with him Mr. Frank Jackson.

Mr. Stine has been a mason thirty-three years and served in the highest offices of the order. For six years he has been a K. of P. Always a popular fraternity man, a good citizen, churchman, his life is a good one for young men to emulate.



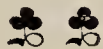
**Dr. A. B. Metts.**

If, as the philosophers long ago announced, "the proper study of mankind is man", assuredly man's greatest concern next to the salvation of his soul, is his bodily health. And in his dilemma to whom can man turn but to the careful students of that science which deals with the treatment of diseases? The NEWS readers will bear out the assertion that seldom is a city able to count so well qualified a coterie of medical practitioners as the resident doctors of Ossian, and prominent among the number



is the subject of this sketch, Dr. A. H. Metts.

Dr. A. H. Metts was born December 15, 1837, at Murray, Indiana, a son of James W. and Miranda (Sutton) Metts. He spent his youth much after the fashion of other sons of early settlers. He received his rudimentary education at the Murray academy and common schools. In 1860 he began to study medicine under the tutelage of his brother, Dr. J. I. Metts, and in a short time went to Rush Medical College. In 1862, he enlisted in Co. G., 101st Ind., Vol., Inf., and served until his discharge in 1864. After his return home he went on with his medical studies, and in 1866 he began to practice in Ossian and the surrounding country. His success as a physician has always been good, and for years he has been Dr. J. I. Metts' counsel in difficult cases. Dr. Metts has always been a popular member of society, a member of several fraternities, and an accomplished, courteous gentleman. The fame of Dr. Metts is so well known, and his skill in treatment of disease, that added gratulatory mention is superfluous.



#### V. M. Hatfield.

Mr. V. M. Hatfield was born in Murray in 1859; came to Ossian in 1867, where he has since resided. He received his fundamental education in the Ossian schools, which education was supplemented by a special course under Rev. A. Mayn. One year spent at Elder's Ridge Academy, Indiana county, Pa., under Dr. Alexander Donaldson D. D., fitted him for the University of Wooster, where he took a partial classical course. Business obligations made it necessary for Mr. Hatfield to leave his university work and take up less congenial labor at his father's desk.

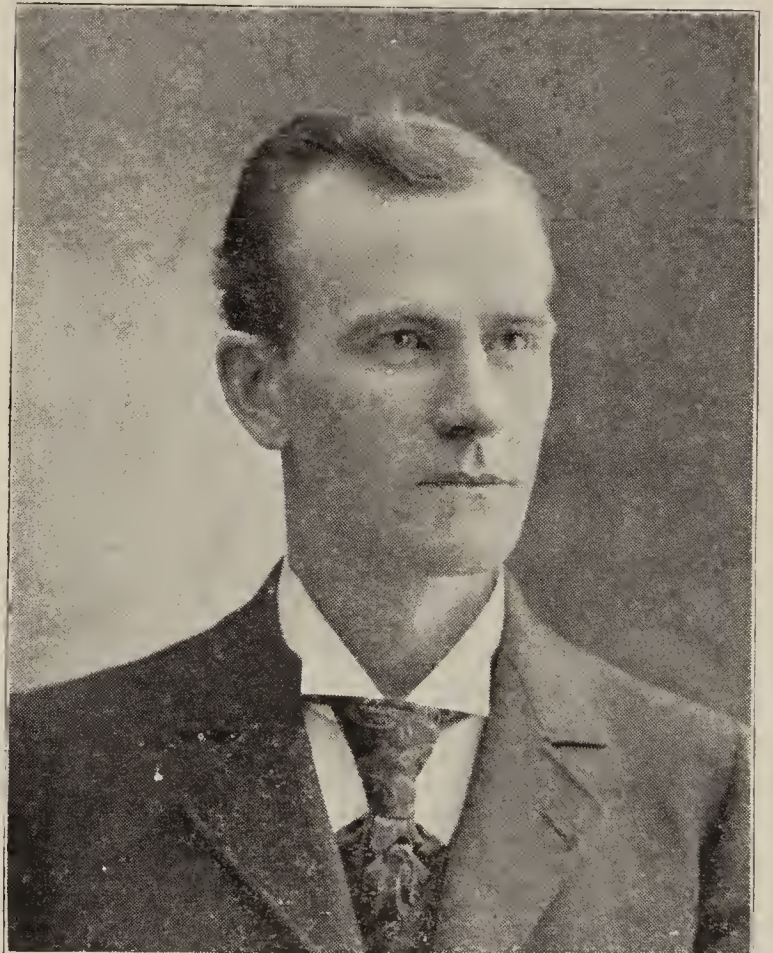
He began merchandising in 1878, and has followed it ever since. In 1893, he readjusted the business of the firm of Hatfield & Son, assuming sole management. The business is now conducted on a somewhat modified scale, since the reverses incident to the panic of 1893.

The general signs of improvement throughout the country have induced the present store management to increase the

stock: this has been done gradually during the last three years until now the store presents the best stock ever carried in Ossian, and requires four regular employees to care for properly.

For several years, Mr. Hatfield has made the sale of musical instruments, especially pianos and organs, a branch of his work. This business has grown so that he now employs three salesmen. As an instrument dealer and salesman, he has no peer in this part of the country, and since he always handles strictly high grade instruments, his patronage is stable and growing.

Personally, Mr. Hatfield is a man of



V. M. Hatfield.

delightful personality. He is a leader in all things that tend to popular welfare. He has always been a patron of literature, and deeply interested in all educational matters. He has an extensive, well-assorted library and finds time in the midst of business engrossments to keep up systematic study and reading. As a promoter of musical affairs, Mr. Hatfield has always been a leader, and it is owing to his tireless efforts in this direction that musical knowledge has been disseminated to the present realized extent.

Besides being a patron of arts, Mr. Hatfield is an expert accountant, and is con-



sidered one of the best judges of merchandise values in the county. At present he is serving on the advisory board of Jefferson township, having received his appointment through Judge Vaughn. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, also a high dignitary in the K. O. T. M. order.

Mr. Hatfield was one of the promulgators of the new cemetery, and has been secretary and manager of the association ever since its organization. He is an elder in the Presbyterian church, and was honored by the Fort Wayne Presbytery in 1898, by being made a delegate to the General Assembly, the highest executive body in the church.

Mr. Hatfield's home is a pattern of hospitality. Three charming daughters make it a most pleasant place of entertainment. The cultured and art-loving spirits are ever welcome there. Mr. Hatfield, himself, a patron of all those things which appeal to the higher tastes, is always glad to welcome the mentally and morally refined.



#### William W. Brown.

It is always a pleasure to commend work done by a good workman. The subject of this sketch is in the truest sense a good workman, the best of the kind ever in Ossian.

Mr. Brown was born in 1839, at Niagara Falls, N. Y., a son of parents of Irish descent. He is a self-educated, self-made man and from earliest youth has followed his present avocation. He began to work at his trade when 16 years of age, and at the same time learned painting and trimming. His skill in making all parts of carriages and in designing new styles of vehicles, his ability to build conveyances that were specially made according to certain specifications, soon placed him at the head of the line wherever he worked.

Mr. Brown's life has been an eventful one, and he has always been a busy man. He began his labors at Kalamazoo, Mich., and remained there 12 years. Then he moved to Chicago at which place he spent 4 years. Returning to Michigan he located at Niles, and worked in the shops for 7 years. He has also spent a portion of his

life at the following places—South Bend, St. Louis and Detroit.

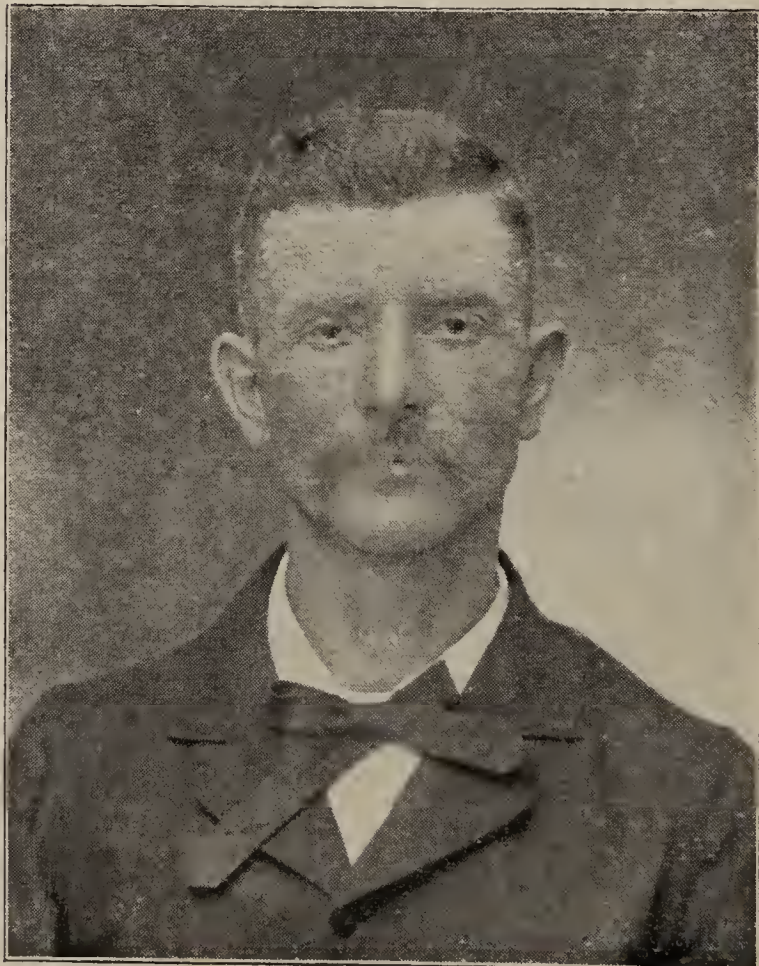
In August, 1897, Mr. Brown opened up his present establishment in Ossian. From the very first the work he turned out was such as to advertise his ability all over the country. An industrious man, he can be found early and late in his carriage shop in the north end of town busy with repair and other work—in fact he is busy all the time.



#### Roe Bros.

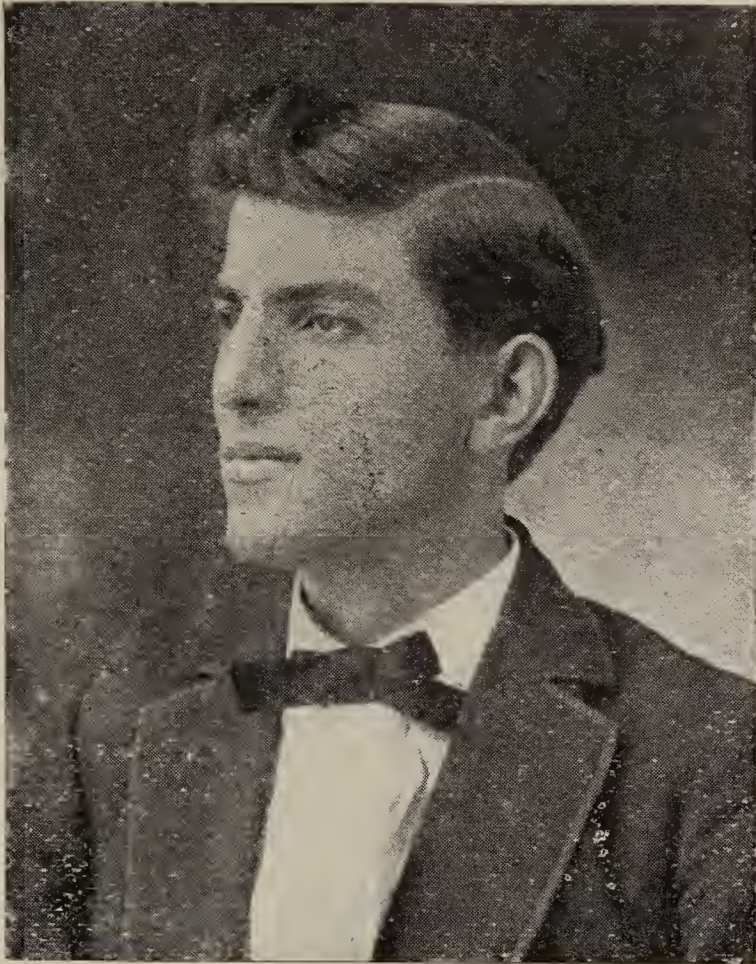
Arthur F. and E. H. Roe are very successful business men. They have done much to perpetuate many things which redound to the good of the town. At the store, which is in charge of E. H. Roe, the patrons are received with the utmost courtesy, and their wants, small or large, are attended to with equal carefulness. A. F. Roe, who is largely connected with the store financially does not attend to the business in person, but is engaged in the pleasant occupation of farming a fertile tract of land south of town.

Arthur F. Roe, of the Roe Bros. firm, had for his birth year 1862. He first saw the light on his father's farm near Ossian. He is a son of Ezekiel and Catherine Roe, who have been inhabitants of this town.



Arthur F. Roe.





**Elias H. Roe.**

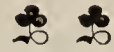
ship many years.

Mr. Roe graduated from the Ossian High School and also from the Fort Wayne M. E. College. He spent his early life at farm work, but being injured in an accident was unfitted for the time for manual labor, so he began the study of telegraphy, and before he had learned the art, a position was waiting for him. This happened when he was 17 years of age. For 8 years he was telegraph operator at various places, then his health becoming impaired, he returned home, and in 1893, the firm of Roe & Stine came into existence. Mr. E. H. Roe then went into the store as clerk. In 1895 he purchased an interest in the establishment and the firm name became Roe Bros.

E. H. Roe, who looks after the business of the store which has become so widely popular, was born in 1874, and received his education at the Ossian High School and at the Danville Normal College. Having always had a desire to be a merchant and a business man, he purchased an interest in the store in 1895. Carefulness and perseverance are the qualities that brought him to the front as one of our young men of whom we can be proud.

Both A. F. and E. H. Roe are popular members of society—and deserve the hon-

ors which have come to them through hard work, honesty and faithfulness.



**Mrs. E. Wilson.**

The lady readers of this volume will not require to be taught where in Ossian is to be found the choicest selection of fancy millinery. The name of Mrs. E. Wilson has so long been associated with what is artistic in ladies furnishings that all are perfectly familiar with the high standard and exquisite taste of her establishment. In this work, Mrs. Wilson's judgment is supplemented by the taste of Miss Grace, her daughter, who has charge of the trimming department, and who is one of the most popular and brilliant young ladies in the city.

Mrs. Wilson has lived in this place 30 years, and her life history is so familiar to all that any data relating thereto or comment thereupon, would be superfluous. For several years, she was absent keeping house for Miss Grace who was pursuing a collegiate and musical education. In the fall of 1896, she returned to Ossian and established her present business, coming direct from Hartford City, where she had been at the head of a millinery shop for a year.

A glance at the stock kept by Mrs. Wilson, will amply repay anyone who is a lover of art. Always selecting that which is most elegant and tasty, good dressers have found it to their advantage to deal where their orders, large or small, receive careful attention.

Miss Grace Wilson who is a most able head of the trimming department, is a charming leader in social circles. She is a member of the Eastern Star order, and holds the office therein of Esther. She is also a Sister of Rebecca, and is deservedly popular with all the young people in the city. Her tastes and culture are such as to make her the center of a large and admiring coterie of friends.

It is the pleasure of the NEWS to pay a sincere compliment to the many talents by which she dignifies and adorns the social world about us. She deserves special praise for her arts of impersonation and reciting in which she shows great histrionic power.



### Rem A. Johnston.

Rem A. Johnston is recognized in this community as pre-eminently a literary man. His opinions on all matters pertaining to literature and history are sought by many, and his use of English is generally accepted as incontrovertible authority. He was born in Ossian, September 18, 1875, and, very early in life, manifested an eagerness for knowledge that is exceptional, even in the most precocious children. He graduated from the Ossian High School in 1892, having made a phenomenal record in his grades, and leaving an individual impress upon class-mates and teachers that suggested strong probabilities of future distinction in the world of letters. For three years following his graduation, he gave his attention largely to the study of English, which for him held peculiar charms.

In 1895 he entered Wabash College with a view of securing a thorough classical education in that institution; but his physical strength was not sufficient to bear the unusual strain accompanying the unremitting application he there employed, and he was obliged to give up school in 1896. Returning home very much prostrated, he nevertheless continued to prosecute his studies, as health permitted, a-

long lines that were most inviting to him. In short story writing he found a sphere where his fertile imagination could expand, and he stored his library with scores of manuscripts, a few of which have been published in popular magazines. The formation of English verse, however, fascinated him more than any other department of composition; and critics of high standing have graciously conceded the productions of his pen to rank in a class with the world's most noted poets.

Mr. Johnston's talent is unquestionably a rare one. His inventions are peculiarly original, his style unique and diversified, while his language is well-chosen and strong. THE NEWS acknowledges with pleasure numberless favors at his hand that have elevated the literary standard and added to the value and interest of the reading matter contained in its columns.

It is the purpose of this promising young author to publish a small volume of songs and lyrics in the near future, which will give the reading public an opportunity to judge of the merit of his verses. We subjoin the following poem from his pen, an exquisite, smooth-flowing conception, of graceful metre; and one whose lofty sentiment marks the deep current of a mind of large resources and careful cultivation.

### To-morrow.



We live too much in our To-morrow—

The day that never comes—

We reap in it, we beg, we borrow,

We pay our tax on joy and sorrow,

And long—and long—for that To-morrow—

To-morrow never comes!

To-morrow's flowers, To-morrow's singing,—

Sweet laughter runs to tears,—

To-morrow—think what it is bringing!—

To-morrow—hope is ever springing

Up just to hear To-morrow's singing,

When laughter runs to tears.

We hope—the hope dies out in fever—

The Wide Eyes look in ours,—

We pray, and then we hear forever

The wings of sighs—Ah, God! deliver,

And make us fearless by that fever

To face those Eyes in ours!

To-morrow's dawn is never given

To break upon us all:

We wake before To-morrow's heaven

Wakes for us, and our lives are riven—

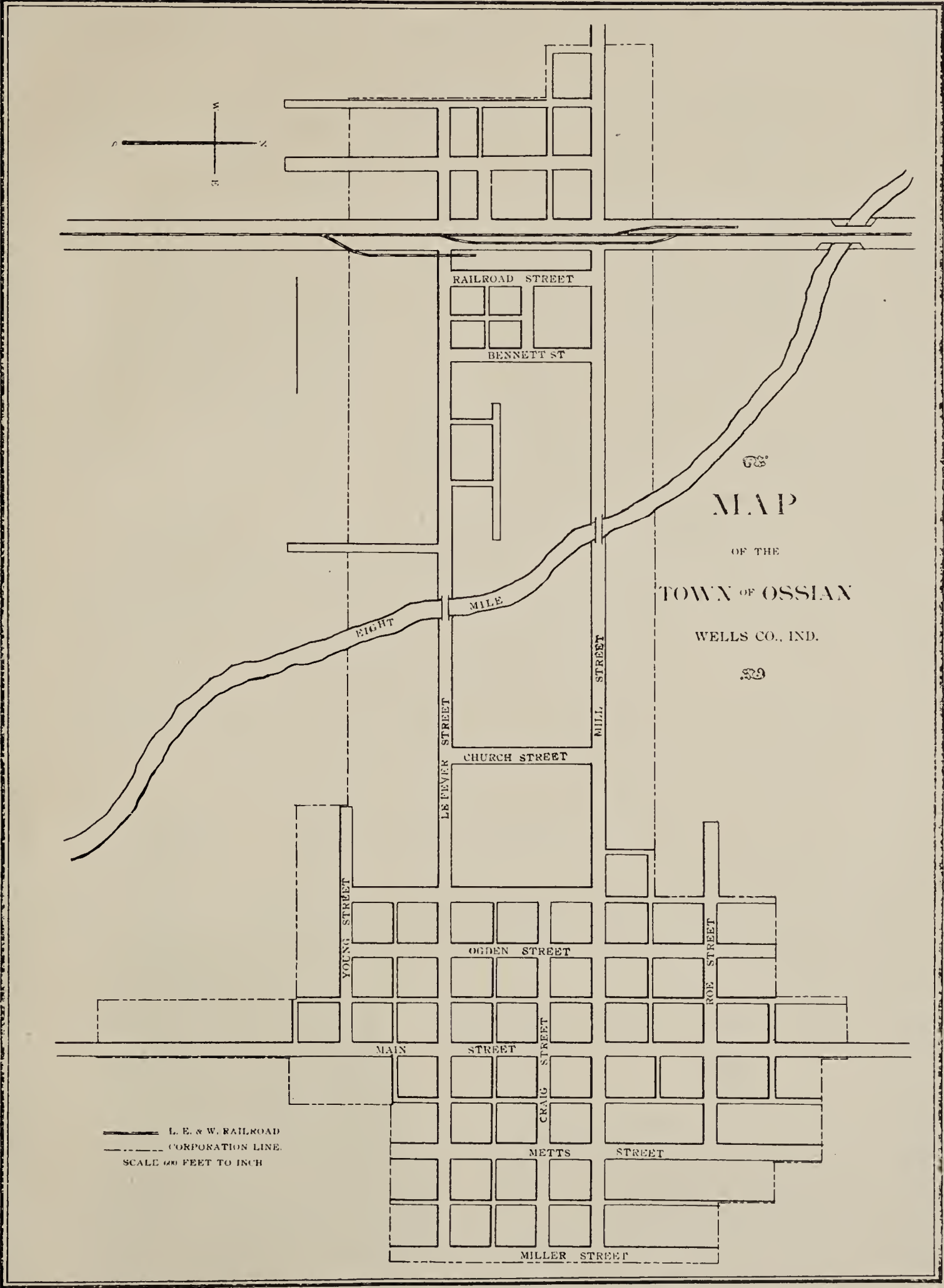
Though we implore the Light is given

Never unto us all!

THE  
LAST  
BLOT.







The above Map was reproduced from the official drawing, which was drafted according to the instructions of the incorporation survey. The incorporation limit, the streets, and the several additions which were made to the town plat by A. S. Elzey, J. S. Krewson, T. A. Doan and Mrs. Crouse, are shown. The names of the streets are given, the railroad and the creek are accurately traced.





# THE CROWN PIANO

IN A SPHERE  
OF ITS OWN!

COPYRIGHT 1898, BY  
GEO. P. BENT, CHI.

## THE CROWN PIANO....

Most satisfactory because  
of its purity of tone.

Most durable because made  
of best materials.

Most popular because it  
combines along with pure  
piano tones a pleasing  
variety in its exquisite  
imitation of all stringed  
instruments.



**V. M. HATFIELD,**  
GENERAL AGENT.

### V. M. HATFIELD

Dispenser of Musical Instruments, and Disseminator of Musical Ideas.  
The Largest Exclusive Music House in the County.

With an unparalleled record of uninterrupted progress.

Only instruments of highest grade sold, at prices based on the moderate profit schedule.

Employs reliable salesmen and competent workmen in piano tuning and organ repairing.

## CROWN ORGANS.



Not the only ones but conceded to be the best.

Endorsed by leading musicians everywhere.

Quality of tone and attractive appearance two prominent features.

Fully warranted for ten years.

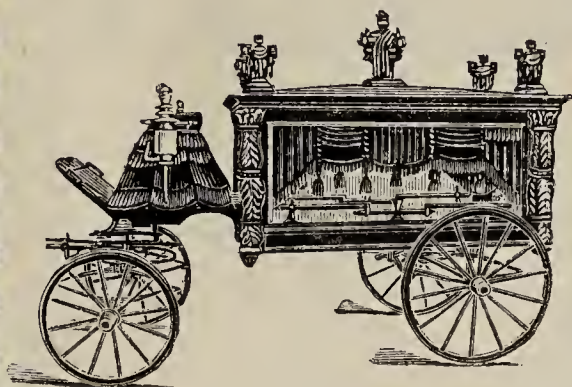


**V. M. HATFIELD,**  
OSSIAN, IND. GENERAL AGENT.





# A. S. Elzey.



## Undertaker ...and... Embalmer.

Modern Methods in Embalming.  
Up-to-Date Funeral Equipment.

General Salesman of....



## Funeral Cars Buggies and Carriages.

Always Able to Quote  
Lowest Prices.



A. S. Elzey, \*\*\*\*\* Ossian, Ind.



# C. E. SWAIM

## • FURNITURE DEALER. •

A FULL LINE OF.....

 UP-TO-DATE HOUSE  
FURNISHING.

CHAMBER SUITS.

SIDEBOARDS.

EXTENSION TABLES.

DINING ROOM and

PARLOR SUITS.

BOOK CASES.

COUCHES.

KITCHEN FURNITURE.

Picture Framing a Specialty.

Get My Prices Before Purchasing.

C. E. SWAIM, OSSIAN, IND.

## Mrs. L. T. Swaim

The **Leading Milliner**

Is Prepared to Show You



The Largest and  
Best Stock of

## ..Millinery Goods..

Displayed in Ossian.



12 years of experience in this line insures best work  
at the very lowest prices.



# L. F. WILSON



## LIVERYMAN AND TRUCKMAN



.....  
Prices  
Reasonable.  
.....



Good Horses and  
Up-To- Date Equipment.



CALLS ANSWERED DAY OR NIGHT.



NO. 8.

L. F. WILSON,  
OSSIAN, IND.



# J. H. HOOVER


DEALER IN .....



**PURE DRUGS**  
**PAINTS, OILS**  
**and VARNISHES.**

*Leading Patent Medicines.*



**WALL PAPER**   
**and WINDOW SHADES.**



*Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silver and Chinaware.*

*Holiday and Birthday Presents.*



★ **J. H. HOOVER,** *OSSIAN, IND.* ★



WM. R. BEATY.



THOS. A. DOAN.

# BEATY & DOAN

DEALERS IN



**LUMBER  
LATH  
SHINGLES  
AND MOULDING.**



**BUYERS and SHIPPERS of**

**ALL KINDS  
OF GRAIN...**



NO. 7.

**BEATY & DOAN,  
OSSIAN, INDIANA.**

**Mill, Elevator and Brick Yard in West Ossian.**



# ★ OSSIAN ★ ★ ROLLER MILLS ★

SOLE MANUFACTURERS  
OF THE  
FAMOUS

●●●●●●



● — **HIGH-GRADE FLOUR** — ●

ALSO DEALER IN



**FEED,  
GRAIN,  
ETC.**

**CUSTOM WORK A SPECIALTY.**



NO. 10.

**M. E. HURSH, PROP., OSSIAN, IND.**



# O. W. REED

DEALER IN

## GENERAL FARM MACHINERY.

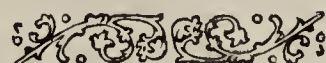


WAGONS,  
CARRIAGES,  
BUGGIES, ETC.

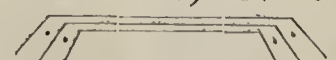


HAY LOADERS,  
CULTIVATORS,  
BINDERS,  
MOWERS,  
DRILLS,  
PLOWS.

*Careful Attention Given to Repairing Farm Machinery.*



O. W. REED, COSSIAN, IND.





# HARRY NILL

## ONLY EXCLUSIVE SHOE DEALER

Full Line of

...IN OSSIAN...



## BOOTS, SHOES and RUBBERS.

The Famous Ladies' and Misses' Tappan Water-Proof Shoe,  
also Gents' Lambertville Snag-Proof Boot found only at

MY STORE.

Repairing Given Special Attention.



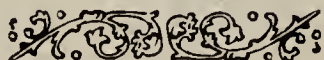
HARRY NILL, OSSIAN, IND.

# J. S. KREWSON

## Notary Public.

## PENSION AND COL- MATTERS \* LECTIONS

Given Special Attention.



## ADMINISTRATOR and EXECUTOR

Work Properly Transacted.



Property Bought and Sold and Collector of Rents.

J. S. KREWSON, OSSIAN, IND.



# CROFTS & REED'S

## LAUNDRY & TOILET SOAPS

....ALSO....

Fine Perfumes and  
 Flavoring Extracts.

ALL ORDERS DELIVERED AT YOUR DOOR.

"A man works from sun to sun, but a woman's work was never done,"  
 Until Wolverine Soap came to her ken, and now she's through before the men.

DISTRIBUTED BY.....

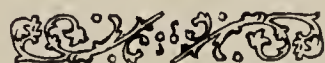
T. J. ZEGENFUS, Ossian, Ind.

## Capt. J. L. Leslie



## Scenic Artist and Painter...

Artistic  Paper  Hanging.



Interior Decorating a Specialty.



Capt. J. L. Leslie, Ossian, Ind.



# Jacob Fatscher

## Merchant Tailor...



First-Class Tailoring.



Endless Variety of Samples  
from which to make  
Your Selection.



Prices always  
Reasonable....

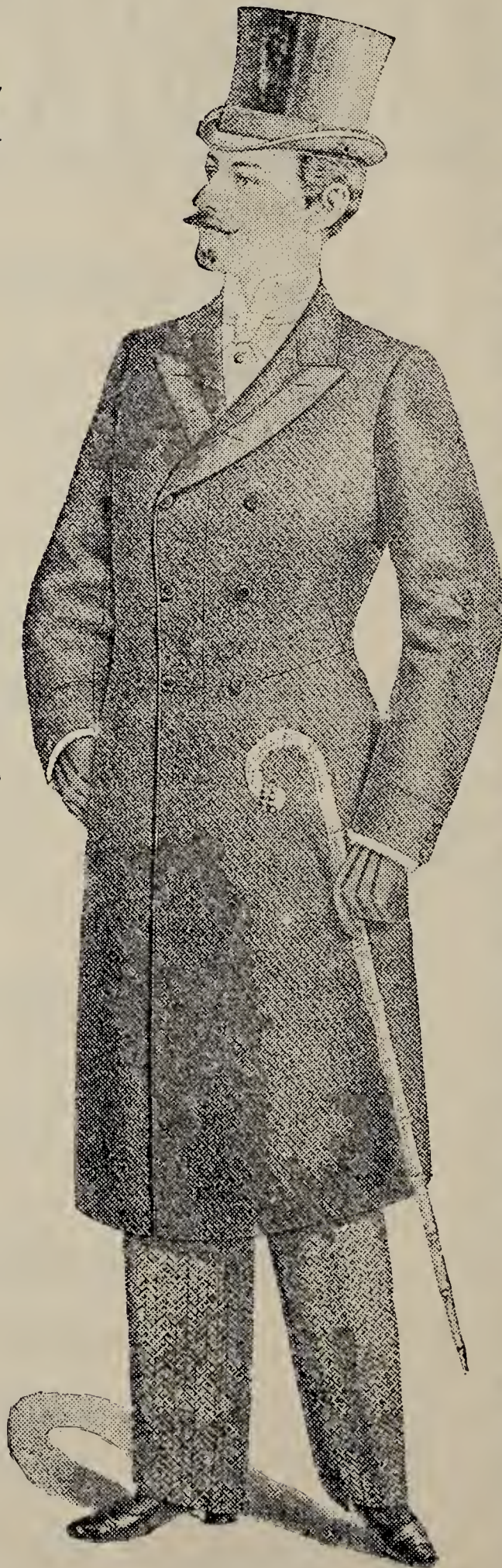


All Work Guaranteed.



Jacob Fatscher,

Ossian = Ind.





# E. T. HAWLEY...

Contractor  
and Builder.



Always Up-To-Date  
in Interior and  
Exterior Designing.



Estimates Furnished  
upon Application.



NOTE. In the foregoing pages of this edition appear views of residences designed and constructed or remodeled under my direction. Mrs. Wm. Lopshire, T. A. Doan, Dr. M. N. Newman, W. R. Beaty, J. H. Young, J. H. Keefer, Dr. A. H. Metts, Dr. A. G. Gorrell, Harry Bunn, James Swaim.

TILE ALL  
SIZES.

Latest Improved Machinery and Dry Kiln.  
Estimates gladly furnished on large orders.



PRICES REASONABLE.



## Hydraulic Cider Press...

All the conveniences for cider making in season.



## REX & HENDRY,

OSSIAN, IND.  
Yards ¼ mile south of Depot.



# N. WEAVER

.....MANUFACTURER OF.....

## LIGHT and HEAVY HARNESSES

.....ALSO DEALER IN.....



SADDLES, WHIPS,  
COLLARS, BLANKETS,  
AXLE GREASE *AND*  
HARNESSES OIL.



General Supplies for the  
Horse and Stable.



*Special Attention Given to Repairing.*



**N. WEAVER,** *OSSIAN, IND.*  
.....



F. M.   
THURBER.

DEALER IN

GENERAL  
HARDWARE

**FARM—**  
**Implements**  
**and Machinery.**

  
 STOVES  
 and TIN-  
WARE.  


F. M. THURBER,  OSSIAN, IND.



# SHOPPING



*Is not an unpleasant task when you can find....*

*A Well-Arranged Department Store.  
Well-Lighted. Convenient and  
Well Stocked with Desirable Goods.*

## THE HATFIELD STORE

*Offers inducements that please and  
Satisfy the customer, in*



*Extensive Variety of Wares,  
Exceptional Values,  
Excellent Service, and  
Extraordinary Low Prices.*

*The Principal Lines Embraced in this* **MAMMOTH STOCK** *are*



**STAPLE and FANCY DRY GOODS,  
NOTIONS, TAILOR-MADE CLOTHING,  
GENT'S FURNISHING GOODS,  
FOOT WEAR, HATS and CAPS,  
GROCERIES, CHINAWARE.**

*Careful attention to the smallest details of business  
has gained for this firm the ENVIABLE DISTINCTION*

*...of being...*

*The Best Place to Trade.*

**V. M. HATFIELD,**  
**OSSIAN, INDIANA.**



**ROBISON & ROBISON**

**DENTISTS**

BLUFFTON, IND.

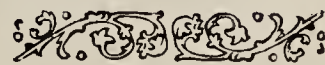


P. L. ROBISON.

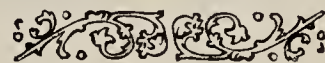


H. E. ROBISON.

**MODERN DENTISTRY.**



Careful Attention Given to all Patrons.



Branch Office at Ossian on Tuesdays.

**D. STINE & SON**

Manufacturers of

**DOUBLE and SINGLE SHOVEL PLOWS**

**AND GENERAL BLACKSMITHS.**

Horse Shoeing a Specialty.

Repairing of Steel Plows Given Careful Attention....

**D. STINE & SON, OSSIAN, IND.**



A. F. ROE.

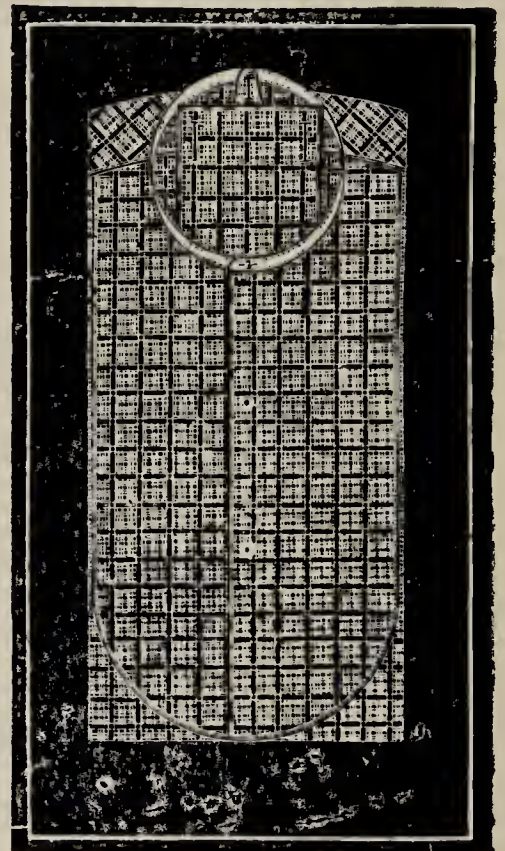
E. H. ROE.

# ROE BROS.

## LEADING MERCHANTS

*Handling an Immense Line of...*

**DRY GOODS,  
GROCERIES,  
BOOTS, SHOES  
*AND* GENTS'  
FURNISHING.**



*Our Line is Always...*

***Up-To-Date.  
Each  
Department***

*Receiving Our Best  
Attention, that You  
May obtain the Best  
Goods the Market  
Affords.*

**Make Our Store Your Trading Point.**

***GLAD TO DISPLAY OUR GOODS.***



NO. 26.

**ROE BROS.,** OSSIAN, IND.



OSSIAN'S

TONSORIAL PARLOR.

IN ALL ITS PRACTICES.....

STRICTLY MODERN.

IN ALL ITS USAGES.....

First Class *and* Up-to-Date.



Latest Face Washes and Invigorators in Use at Our Place.



We were among the first to introduce and rigidly adhere to the use of antiseptics and sterilizers.



YOU ARE NEXT! COME IN?

F. M. BEATY, Prop.

...I. J. BAUMGARDNER...

• PHOTOGRAPHER •

*All the Latest Styles*  
in Photography.

Crayon Portraits, Copying and Enlarging.

Medallions, Buttons and all kinds of Photo Jewelry.

Complete Line of Picture Frames.

STUDIOS AT MARKLE *and* OSSIAN.

...OSSIAN GALLERY OPEN WEDNESDAYS....

Editor's Note: The photographic art work of this Souvenir was done by Mr. Baumgardner.



# THE OLD RELIABLE BAKERY.

FRESH BREAD,  
PIES & CAKES DAILY.



FANCY CAKES MADE TO ORDER.



.....A SELECT LINE OF.....

✻ Groceries ✻ Provisions ✻ Etc. ✻



T. W. QUACKENBUSH & SON,  
OSSIAN, IND.

## OSSIAN MEAT MARKET.

...A Full Variety of...



**FRESH,  
SALT and  
SMOKED  
MEATS.**



*Bologna, Sausage, Lard, Tallow, Etc.*

**Highest Market Prices**

*For FAT STOCK, HIDES, ETC.*



**JOHN WOODWARD,** OSSIAN, IND.  
~~~~~



Mrs. E. Wilson...

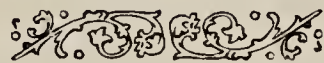
The Up-to-Date....

 Milliner...

A Large Line of

Shapes, Ribbons, Silks,  
Satins, Plumes, Tips, Fancy  
Feathers, Ornaments, Etc., Etc.

The Very Latest Styles in Making and Trimming.



Prices Always Reasonable.

A. M. WHITE

DEALER IN



FARM  
IMPLEMENTS.



Farmers' Headquarters for  
Large and Small Machinery....

When in need of any article used about the farm,  
Make your wants known and they will receive careful attention.

A. M. WHITE, OSSIAN, IND.



# JOHN G. GORRELL

~ JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ~



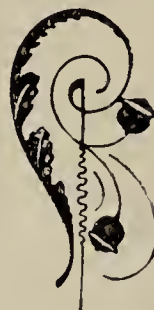
and GENERAL  
INSURANCE AGENT.

Represents the....

NEW YORK UNDERWRITERS.  
PHOENIX OF BROOKLYN.  
HARTFORD and ORIENT.

★ ★ ★ ★

AMERICAN MUTUAL.  
HARTFORD LIFE.



★ ★ ★ ★

Collections Given Careful Attention.

JOHN G. GORRELL, OSSIAN, IND.

C. D. KYLE Dealer in

**BUTTER, EGGS  
and POULTRY.**

Buyer of Old Iron, Brass, Copper,  
Rubber, Paper Rags, Etc.

C. D. KYLE, Ossian, Ind.

J. E.  
McLAIN,  
The  
Leading  
Photo-  
Grapher  
of  
Bluffton



Picture Frames, Easels, Enlarging  
and Medallions of the  
Highest Grade.

OSSIAN CREAMERY CO.,

Manufacturers of

**GILT EDGE  
BUTTER.**

Long Distance Phone No, 16, Ossian, Ind.

Jacob J. Todd.

Nelson K. Todd.

Levi Anson Todd, Notary,

**TODD & TODD,  
LAWYERS**

The Studabaker Bank Building,  
Bluffton, Indiana.

JOHN W. TRIBOLET,

General Real Estate Dealer.  
BUY, SELL, RENT AND EXCHANGE.

**MONEY TO LOAN**

At Low Rates on Long Time.

Office over the Studabaker Bank,  
Bluffton, Indiana.















